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15 Mar Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1503132289 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

The cabinet in East Beirut is taking measures to bring about the "immediate withdrawal" of Syrian forces from Lebanon, General Michel 'Awn announced at a news conference broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. He accused the Syrians of an "indiscriminate bombardment" of Lebanese territory and claimed that his own forces were only aiming at military targets. The Syrians are opposing the imposition of Lebanese state authority over illegal ports because they wish to continue trafficking in "arms, drugs, and terrorists," he asserted. In a related development, Gen 'Awn called on the Arab League to intervene to end the "aggressions" by Syria and work toward the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, the radio noted.

Beirut radio reported that the capital remained in a state of "paralysis" 15 March following the "indiscriminate" shelling the previous day which brought life to a "standstill" in the western sector. Voice of National Resistance radio reported that over 40 people were killed and over 120 injured in the bombardment of West Beirut. Another 6 civilians were killed and 31 injured by an artillery attack on the Syrian-controlled town of Shtawrah, Beirut radio noted. The radio also broadcast a statement by the Army Command in West Beirut authorizing its forces to reply to the shelling by Gen 'Awn's forces. According to IRNA, the Iranian and Soviet Embassies were among the buildings hit in the bombardment.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon gave a casualty toll of over 40 dead and 150 wounded in the bombardment, but did not say whether this applied to all areas. The radio cited reports that 7 Syrian artillery emplacements were destroyed and over 20 Syrians killed. It acknowledged that a Lebanese Army helicopter was destroyed at the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzah, and Gen 'Awn viewed the bombardment of the Ministry as a "carefully planned" attempt on his life, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Egypt-Israel

The border enclave of Tabah was handed over to Egyptian sovereignty 15 March, Jerusalem radio reported. An Egyptian diplomat declared that he hopes there will be a "new era" in relations between the two countries.

Iran-Iraq Cease-Fire Violations

The Armed Forces Command "categorically denied" Iraqi charges that Iran had "repeatedly" violated the cease-fire agreement and claimed that Iranian troops at first "abstained" from responding to Iraqi fire in Shalamcheh region 13 March but were later "forced" to do so, IRNA reported. An Iranian military official cited by IRNA alleged that Iraq violated the cease-fire twice on 13 March, opening fire on Shalamcheh, Khorramshahr, and Abadan. Five Iranian troops were wounded in the 7-hour attack on Shalamcheh, the agency added.

Iran

Chief Justice Musavi-Ardabili promised to "crack down" on drug traffickers, armed robbers, and those who disrupt law and order, in an interview reported by Tehran television. He also said that "sensitive" cases would be dealt with quickly, using mobile courts in areas without a full judicial establishment.

ICO Conference

The conference will study the "assaults" to which the Islamic faith is being exposed and an item on the agenda concerning this point has been referred to the political committee, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal disclosed at a news conference reported by SPA. The prince, who is chairman of the conference, added that he cannot yet take a general position on the question of blasphemy against Islam as the conference has not yet made any final decision on it.

The conference resumed its deliberations 15 March, SPA noted.

Afghanistan

The recent mujahidin shelling of Kabul International Airport was a "blatant violation of the norms of international law" and of the international convention on civil aviation, according to a TASS statement issued 14 March. The statement criticized Pakistan for its continued violation of the Geneva accords and its "brazen interference" in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The heavy blows inflicted on the mujahidin in Jalalabad have "frustrated" their hopes of capturing the city, halted their advance, and even forced them back, according to an Armed Forces communique cited by Kabul radio. The communique welcomed the decision of individuals to abandon the fighting and seek refuge behind the government's lines.

The "abortive" attempts to seize Jalalabad graphically demonstrate that the central government is able to protect "the popular system of power," the Afghan ambassador to Moscow claimed at a 14 March press briefing reported by TASS. He added that the "opposition" lost 3,000 men killed in the battle for Jalalabad.

In a related development, Pakistan called an "urgent" meeting of humanitarian aid organizations to discuss problems connected with the arrival in the country of 30,000 new Afghan refugees fleeing the fighting in Jalalabad, AFP reported.

India has agreed to airlift food aid to Kabul, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil told reporters on his return from a visit to India, according to AFP. He added that there may be further announcements of "measures taken by the Indian Government" but declined to say what they may be, the agency added.

PLO Affairs

The DFLP issued a communique in Damascus denouncing PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's offer to go to Jerusalem for peace talks, AFP reported. Colonel Sa'id Musa's Fatah "Uprising" Movement warned that any PLO leader who considers visiting Jerusalem has "sentenced himself to death," according to Lebanon's Voice of Hope radio.

Recent commentaries by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio sharply criticized Syria and its Palestinian "agents." The radio described the Al-Quds radio station in Syria as a "purely Syrian station" which expresses the views of the "sectarian" regime in Damascus and assists the Israelis by casting doubts on the PLO and the intifadah (uprising).

Libya

The Libyan ambassador to Tehran told IRNA that remarks by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi criticizing the use of religion for political ends were misinterpreted by "imperialist mass media" as a veiled reference to Iran. Al-Qadhdhafi's remarks were not aimed at Iran but at certain overt and covert organizations, the envoy indicated.

The envoy's comments follow Al-Qadhdhafi's 8 March speech, broadcast by Tripoli television, in which he criticized the arbitrary exercise of power by "a theocratic ruler" who "cuts off people's heads in the name of religion."

Sudan

Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front, told a 14 March news conference in Khartoum that among the reasons for the Front's decision not to join the new government under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi are the inclusion of the trade unions in the government, the absence of a commitment to apply the Islamic shari'ah, and the collapse of Sudan's economy, MENA reported.

On the other hand, the Sudan Workers' Trade Union Federation announced 14 March that it will not join the new government because the present authorities have failed to implement an agreement to increase minimum wages, AFP reported. The federation warned that it will declare a 3-day general strike if its demands for a wage increase are not met within 2 weeks.

Islamic Affairs

Reportage on 18th ICO Foreign Ministers Session

Saudi Foreign Minister Speaks

LD1303204489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1727 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the conference, addressed the 18th ICO Foreign Ministers' session:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. [passage omitted] Brothers, today we listened to the august words of the custodian of the two holy mosques in which he expressed the hopes attached to your conference to consolidate the march of Islamic solidarity and to advance joint Islamic action on cooperation, understanding and coordination in order to fulfill the aspirations of the Islamic countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

Perhaps the fact that this conference is held in the wake of important breakthroughs in several fields in the international area and on several issues, adds a new dimension to this conference of yours.

This spirit of detente and breakthrough, even if it gives us hope of solving regional problems, should not blind us to the fact that international peace and security cannot be achieved without ending the aggressive or racist policies which stem from old and defunct beliefs. [passage omitted]

Brothers, since the establishment of the ICO the issue of the Israeli occupation of the sacred land has been its basic preoccupation and its most important issue, to the extent that the Palestinian issue has been a permanent item on its agenda in all its conferences. [passage omitted]

It is now clear that the suitable way to a comprehensive and just settlement which secures the return of the occupied Arab territories, solves all aspects of the Palestinian issue and fulfills the proven national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, will be to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East. This should be held under UN auspices, with participation on an equal footing of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As for the situation in Lebanon, after the grave dangers of division and disintegration which have threatened the Lebanese entity, we hope that the current efforts of the six-man Arab committee to create understanding among the conflicting Lebanese factions and to preserve Lebanese independence and unity and liberate it from Israeli occupation, will be successful. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, the Afghan issue also witnessed tangible positive developments. [passage omitted] The step taken by the Soviet Union, completing the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan, is appreciated by all of us. This step makes us look forward to seeing the Soviet Union continuing to play such a positive role, by working to heal the wounds created by the previous situation; by working to establish trust and extend bridges of cooperation towards the Afghan state; and by making the relations between the two neighboring countries—the Soviet Union and Afghanistan—relations of goodneighborliness and mutual respect. [passage omitted] Your brother mujahidin are looking forward to your recognition of their government, which, God willing, will gather all the Afghans and restore stability, security and development to that country, will preserve its status as an independent nonaligned country, and will preserve its firm and well established Islamic character.

Brothers, we would like our conference to benefit from the current international breakthrough before it becomes old and loses its enthusiasm. [passage omitted]

Arab League Secretary Speaks

LD1303204589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 Mar, (SPA)—His Excellency Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi made the following speech at the 18th Islamic states foreign ministerial conference:

Your Highness the Prince, Your Excellencies, Gentlemen:

I am happy and honored to attend this conference in the name of the Arab League. It represents an important opportunity to examine a number of our Islamic nation's issues in light of the positive developments that have occurred in international relations, for which humanity as a whole is hoping more agreement, concord, and cooperation will help resolve all the very complicated issues and chronic conflicts. [passage omitted]

It is a must here to recall the dangers of the Zionist challenge, which has been using scientific and technological knowledge and planning to impose its hegemony and destroy the economic, social, and cultural foundations of the Islamic societies, a matter which constitutes a permanent danger to the Islamic world's security, unity, and its efforts to achieve rennaissance and progress. Furthermore, that which some evil tongues are trying to propagate about the Islamic faith and the Arabic-Islamic civilisation will not harm the greatness of our true religion. It will not degrade our civilization, which has been created by the Islamic people everywhere, and which should be commended for preparing the bases for today's rennaissance. [passage omitted]

Your Highness the Prince, the Islamic world is now witnessing the beginning of a certain relaxation as far as some of its problems are concerned, whereas some of its other problems are still far from being solved, despite the efforts of all our countries. [passage omited]

We are all very satisfied with the successful outcome of the efforts revolving around the Afghan problem and with the signing of the Geneva Accords. They have opened the door to the solution the Afghan people have been looking for without any foreign interference and in a manner that would guarantee this fraternal people sovereignty and freedom. [passage omitted]

Your Highness the Prince, beside those developments that make us more hopeful, our people do, however, feel frustrated in light of the impass before a solution that would guarantee a minimum degree of dignity and freedom to the Palestinian people, whose recent intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories has provided us with the best images of heroism. The continuity of such an intifadah, despite all measures of repression and terrorism that are committed daily by the occupation forces—a matter which has even been condemned by the countries closest to Israel itself—is firm evidence of the impossibility of killing off such a revolution without recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

All countries admit that the intifadah has changed the situation in the region. Furthermore, the PNC initiative has compelled any country that respects international law to support the Palestinian stand and to call for the convening of an international conference to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace based on the respect of international legitimacy, which Israel itself used to demand.

We announce from this rostrum in the name of our Arab countries, that there is no way to restore peace in the region except by respecting the will of the Palestinian people and ending the ocupation of all occupied Arab territories, a matter which has been called for by the Fez summit conference of 1982, which adopted the plan by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and derived from it what has since been known as the Arab Plan for Peace, which was the basis for the historic initiative taken by the PNC in Algiers in November 1988 [passage omitted]

Qatar Urges Stand on 'Verses'

LD1303193889 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—The ruler of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani called on the foreign ministerial meeting of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which opened in Riyadh today, to adopt a decisive stand vis-a-vis 'The Satanic Verses'.

Shaykh Khalifah made the remark in a meeting with the Iranian delegation led by head of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Doha Monday.

In the meeting, the ayatollah handed to the Qatari ruler a written message from President 'Ali Khamene'i, and discussed with him the new plots of the global arrogance and the need for a united Islamic stand against such conspiracies.

Ayatollah Jannati, earlier visited the UAE, Oman, North and South Yemen, Kuwait, and Bahrain, and has held talks with those countries' high-ranking officials on the blasphemous book written by Salman Rushdie, which has shocked the Muslim world.

2d Working Session Begins

LD1403093489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0752 14 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Mar (SPA)—The 18th Islamic foreign ministers conference began its second working session at 1030 today at the King Faysal conference center in Riyadh under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, minister of foreign affairs and conference chairman.

Closed Session Concludes

LD1403125189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Mar (SPA)—A short while ago, the 18th ICO foreign ministers conference concluded the closed working session—held after today's open session. It was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the conference.

Kuwaiti Minister on Rushdie

LD1403165089 Kuwait KUNA in English 1459 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, March 14 (KUNA)—Kuwait Tuesday urged the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to campaign for a worldwide ban of the controversial book "The Satanic Verses" and said the Islamic group must take deterrent action against such insults to the Islamic faith.

Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told a conference for OIC foreign ministers the book was part of a prejudiced attack against Islam and that it must be faced with a decisive action by all Islamic countries.

"Such cheap slander is a recurrent case in our Islamic history," Shaykh Sabah said indicating that several previous attempts have been made by the enemy of Islam to tarnish the image of the Islamic faith.

In his call for deterrent action, Shaykh Sabah specifically wanted the Organization of Islamic Conference to: "Ban the circulation of the book (The Satanic Verses) in the Islamic countries, boycott and take legal action against the book's publishers and seek to make other world countries prevent publication and circulation of the book or any other similar literature."

The Kuwaiti official, whose country is current OIC chairman, said "all our friends in the world ought to respect heavenly religions and the various civilizations," for the betterment of international relations.

Jordan's Al-Qasim Speaks

JN1403212189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the 18th session of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, has affirmed that the most prominent achievement attained recently in the Arab and Islamic arenas was the framing of the Arab solidarity formulas through announcing the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] as a new source of joint Arab and Islamic work. He noted that this announcement coincides with the launching of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] to form together with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] new pillars of the Arab and Islamic force and a mobilization of the Arab and Islamic potentials. The objective is that the ACC, AMU, and GCC will deal with and be equivalent to similar regional groupings in the world.

In Jordan's speech he delivered today at the conference in Riyadh, Marwan al-Qasim said that the continuation of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Palestinian territory was not just a reaction to repressive Israeli practices and behavior, but an embodiment of the Palestinian people's will to regain their rights and freedom, decide their future in their homeland, and highlight their national personality and identity. Out of its national commitment to highlight the Palestinian identity and personality and to support the intifadah, Jordan declared the legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank out of the resolutions of the Arab and Islamic summit and in response to the Palestinian leadership's demands.

Al-Qasim denounced the policy of segregation still being followed by the racist government in South Africa and its continued crimes against mankind, violating all international principles, laws, and norms. He asserted that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] must translate its support for the struggle waged by the South African and Namibian peoples by backing them until their independence and sovereignty are achieved.

Concluding his speech, Marwan al-Qasim said: It is time we held a comprehensive review of the ICO work and its tools to promote and reinforce its effectiveness and influence and to avoid dualism and interference that obstruct its work.

Hikmatyar Views Kabul Regime

LD1403092889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 Mar (SPA)—Shaykh Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the Afghan provisional government, stressed that the Kabul hireling regime will collapse within a few weeks and that the Afghan mujahidin government will replace it.

In a press conference this evening at the information center of the 18th ICO foreign ministers conference in Riyadh, he stressed that the hireling regime in Kabul is no longer able to withstand the consecutive strikes directed by the Afghan mujahidin.

Hikmatyar said:" The Afghan mujahidin could easily destroy the hireling regime. However, they would like to reduce the casualties and losses among the innocent civilians and property, therefore they are working towards the peaceful fall of the Afghan cities." [passage omitted]

Hikmatyar expressed hopes that the other Islamic governments will recognize the Afghan mujahidin government. He said:" The provisional Afghan government controls practically 95 percent of Afghan territory, enjoys the support of the Afghan people, and has a Shura Council. Therefore it has all the criteria for international recognition." [passage omitted]

In his address, he pointed out that the provisional Afghan government has agreed to hold elections within the coming 5 months to elect the parliament, which in turn will elect the government that will rule Afghanistan in the future. He pointed out that they have also agreed that any party which obtains the majority will be entitled to form the government in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Hikmatyar stressed that the Afghan mujahidin are tightening their siege around Kabul. He pointed out that the government of the hireling Najibullah cannot continue more than a few weeks after which it will, God willing, collapse.

He pointed out that the mujahidin government wants friendly relations with all the countries of the world, provided that there is no interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan or attempts to impose a regime which is not satisfactory for the government or the people.

He said: Our people respect their independence and sovereignty, and we want good and friendly relations with everyone. [passage omitted]

Lebanon Situation Discussed

JN1403212489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and chairman of the six-man Arab committee on Lebanon. The talks, which took place in connection with the 18th conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, dealt with the current situation in Lebanon.

Conference Resumes Work

LD1503092889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0925 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—The 18th ICO foreign ministerial conference this morning resumed its work at the King Faysal Conference Hall in Riyadh under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and chairman of the conference.

In this session, the conference continued to listen to the speeches of its guests.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Instructs Officials on Contacts in U.S.

JN1503110789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Mar (WAKH)—Press reports here today said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has instructed his adviser, Dr Nabil Sha'th, as well as Faysal al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah, who are currently in Washington, to hold their contacts with the U.S. Administration and the Congress as one delegation so that Washington will not feel that it is dealing with two delegations, one from the occupied territories and the other from the PLO.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi, cited Arab diplomatic sources in Washington as saying that Li Litton, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee [name and title as received], has invited Dr Nabil Sha'th to meet with him tomorrow, Thursday, and that another date will be set to meet with Faysal al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah. However, contacts are currently being held to find a way out of this impasse after Al-Husayni and Sinyurah decided to abide by Yasir 'Arafat's instructions.

PLO Leadership Discusses Dialogue With U.S.

JN1403203789 Kuwait AL WATAN in Arabic 13 Mar 89 p 18

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership held a special meeting in the Tunisian capital the night before yesterday and discussed the topics of the second session of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, which is supposed to begin anytime between 15 and 22 March.

The Palestinian meeting resulted in approving the agenda of the second session of dialogue with Washington. This agenda contained topics for discussion and dialogue and demands that should be met by the United States in order to prove its seriousness and goodwill in its dialogue with the PLO.

PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani told AL-WATAN that the Palestinian side will discuss with U.S. Ambassador Pelletreau, who will represent the U.S. side in the second session of talks, the concept of peace in the Middle East and the conditions for realizing it, in additon to the practical steps to achieve it.

Hurani said the issue of Palestinian human rights, the Israeli violations of these rights, and the U.S. role in ending them and lifting the political protection given to the terrorist Israeli crimes being perpetrated by the occupation authorities in the occupied territories will be discussed. He indicated that the Palestinian side will also discuss the U.S. stand toward Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which were approved by the PLO and which call for Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

Hurani, who took part in the first session of dialogue in Tunis in December 1988, stressed that upgrading the level of the negotiating U.S. side is not a condition, but will become essential once progress in dialogue between the two sides is made.

Hurani indicated that dialogue between the Palestinians and Americans in Tunis will not begin in Tunis before 20 March. PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab explained to AL-WATAN the nature of the political demands the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue will present to the U.S. side.

He said "the U.S. side should unequivocally declare its recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, particularly in relation to the issue of peace and its process." He added "we will discuss the subject of relations between the PLO and the United States and will demand the abrogation of all laws banning contacts with the PLO's representatives, something which obstructed the promotion of Palestinian-American ties throughout the past years."

Al-Najjab indicated that the Palestinian side will in this regard demand that the PLO's office in Washington be reopened as a gesture of goodwill signaling the United States' seriousness in dealing with the PLO and the peace efforts in the Middle East.

AL-WATAN has learned from Palestinian sources that, during its meeting the day before yesterday to discuss the subject of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the Palestinian leadership approved the names of persons who will represent the Palestinian side in this dialogue. These are

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the delegation; 'Abd al-Latif Abu Hijlah, alias Abu Ja'far, director of the PLO Political Department; and Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia.

'Abd Rabbuh Interviewed on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN1403161189 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 13 Mar 89 p 16

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] On the 16th of last December, the first official Palestinian-U.S. meeting was held. Since then, the Palestine question has undergone many developments. Do you not believe that there are many obstacles in its way?

['Abd Rabbuh] The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue did not achieve any progress despite the U.S. Administration's use of the excuse that it was going through a transitional stage between two eras. The Palestinian side was sure that these pretexts had a policy of procrastination behind them.

The U.S. Administration wants to postpone holding substantial talks with the PLO by using current unofficial contacts in various places to throw dust in the eyes of people and to suggest that dialogue with the PLO exists. It also attempts, with Israel's understanding, to use the meetings that are sometimes taking place with Palestinian notables in the occupied territories to suggest the possibility of finding alternate Palestinian sides other than the PLO with which they could hold dialogue.

This is the truth of the Washington tactics, that the aim is still to attempt to distance the PLO as much as possible and create Arab or Palestinian alternatives. This U.S. stand was clear to us. It is also obvious to all national elements inside the occupied territories that met with Israeli notables. These national elements affirmed that there is one address the United States and Israel should go to, which is the PLO, to find the means to reach a just and comprehensive settlement.

The PLO officially informed Washington through its embassy in Tunis about a week ago of the necessity of starting an in-depth and serious dialogue with the aim of preparing for comprehensive negotiations within the framework of the international conference. The PLO realizes that Washington wants to exploit the current contacts in the occupied territories or in Tunis to cover up its prevaricating stand. Therefore, the PLO will soon resort to halting these contacts and content itself with official dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO delegations.

With regard to the latest U.S. statements, despite the fact that from the point of view of principle and general shape they suggest that Washington desires to hold serious and deep dialogue with us, we now have to test the extent of the seriousness of these statements. The proof of this is the United States' positive response to hold official dialogue and delve into the basic issues, especially the preparations for negotiations within the framework of the international conference.

We do not understand Washington's prevarications in this field except that it is a continuation of that policy which attempts to impose alternate formulas for Palestinian representation. These formulas are rejected by our people, and all world countries agreed that they are deficient formulations. The road to a comprehensive and just solution is the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the independent State of Palestine, and its legitimate representative—the PLO.

[Al-Barqawi] Has a new date not been set for another round of talks with the United States?

['Abd Rabbuh] We are ready to begin the dialogue. Washington is mistaken if it believes that time is on its side or on Israel's. Time works for the Palestinian position and the Palestinian struggle movement, which has achieved more victories. The split is deepening inside Israeli society and various Israeli institutions. Even in the United States, the forces that call for recognizing the PLO and holding negotiations with it are also increasing.

From the political point of view, the various international blocs' positions on the international conference have also become clearer, and talks are under way to expedite efforts to convene the conference. This trend is obvious in the recent activities and moves of the Soviet foreign minister and in the West European countries' calls and positions. We also exerted efforts with other Arab countries to coordinate the positions of the five parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO.

[Al-Barqawi] Has not the Palestinian side talked to the Americans on fixing a date for the second round of talks with the U.S. side?

['Abd Rabbuh] The United States is still talking about its desire to resume the dialogue but without setting a date for it. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze affirmed to us that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue as well as other matters pertaining to the convening of an international conference will be discussed, among other things, with the U.S. secretary of state in Vienna. This took place last week.

[Al-Barqawi] What about the West European role? Does not this role appear to be slow?

['Abd Rabbuh] It is obvious the West European countries are being exposed to severe U.S. pressure to slow down their pace and prevent them from taking more effective support for the idea of the international conference and from recognizing the Palestinian state and the

PLO as an independent party to the international negotiations. The United States claims that it is pressuring the West European countries because it is reassessing its policy in the Middle East and that it is better for a number of the EC countries to wait until the features of the new U.S. policy become clear.

Naturally some West European countries are content with these pressures because they do not want to play the role required of them. But the majority of the EC countries believe that supporting the Palestinian peace initiative and calling for the convening of an international conference are the best way to make the future U.S. policy more responsive to the requirements of a just settlement.

In our contacts and dialogues with the West European countries, we support this trend. Experience has proved over the past years that a negative European patience does not encourage the peace process. On the contrary, it encourages extremist circles in Washington and Israel to get rid of the international pressure in order to maintain the current situation and hamper efforts to convene the international conference.

[Al-Barqawi] The Middle East region has recently witnessed Soviet activity, the most important of its kind during the past few weeks. Do you think that Shevardnadze's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens might promote Tel Aviv's stance, and is it true that the Soviet Union will sponsor Palestinian-Israeli talks?

['Abd Rabbuh] This tour confirmed a fact that Washington and Israel were trying to obliterate or minimize. This is that the Soviet Union has a role to play in the Middle East peace process and the Soviets are capable of establishing relations with all parties to the conflict in the region. These parties are even in need of this balanced role.

The importance of Shevardnadze's tour lies in the fact that it was not confined to the general and medium aims, but dealt with the mechanism which helps and even makes it possible to hold the international conference as soon as possible. It also fixed a timeframe for the preparatory measures preceding this conference. This, in my opinion, is very important to cut off access to the current Israeli and U.S. attempts to obstruct the forthcoming measures.

It was evident from the talks that a Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat held with the Soviet minister that Moscow believes the preparatory process is multifaceted and has numerous forms and levels. These include a meeting by the foreign ministers of the UN Security Council permanent member states, a reactivation of the Security Council's role, contacts with the concerned parties by the UN secretary general or his personal envoy, or bilateral talks between the various parties to the conflict. Within this perspective, there came the Soviet proposal that was presented to the Israeli foreign minister as well as to us. It calls for dialogue between the PLO and the Israeli Government and says Moscow is ready to host this meeting if accepted by the two parties. Besides its being part of the process of preparation for the international conference, this proposal falls within the framework of the discussion of Soviet-Israeli relations. Moscow believes that restoring relations with Israel hinges on the following two points: Israel's approval of the international conference and its involvement in dialogue with the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

In terms of its aims and mechanism, this Soviet policy conforms with the PLO's political plan because it aims at holding the international conference under appropriate conditions that guarantee its success in reaching a just and comprehensive settlement.

Naturally, the matter that urgently concerns us on the Arab level is that of holding a quintuple meeting in order to coordinate stands among the parties concerned in convening the international conference.

It was the PLO that advanced this proposal, and Shevardnadze discussed it with the various countries he visited. We learned that the replies of the various countries, whose officials discussed this subject, were positive.

[Al-Barqawi] It is said that the issue of the preparatory committee designed to prepare for the international conference has begun to vanish. Do you think that the international conference will convene in 1989?

['Abd Rabbuh] The idea of the preparatory committee for the international conference has not subsided. Nay, I can say that this idea has developed from a notion involving the formation of one preparatory committee into one involving several preparatory works and committees. For example, the call for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the initiation of deliberations within the framework of the UN Security Council would in themselves be preparatory works on the highest level.

Besides, bilateral contacts and dialogues would help this meeting succeed; not to mention the mission of a permanent [UN] representative to the Middle East region.

The important thing about the issue is that giving a time limit of 6 to 9 months to complete these preparatory works prompts one to say that we are awaiting better results. However, the proposals recently submitted on the preparatory committee envisage that the international conference would begin its works with the participation of all concerned parties before the end of this year.

[Al-Barqawi] The Jordanian foreign minister made a statement on the PLO's call for effecting coordination with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt on the international conference. He said that Jordan finds no reason

for this coordination at present and that this coordination must be envisaged when a date for convening the international conference is fixed.

['Abd Rabbuh] As a matter of fact, the statements made by the parties concerned do not reflect a negative stand vis-a-vis the PLO's proposal. Our response to some ideas that have been made public, such as the one stating that coordination among the parties concerned should be effected when a date for convening the international conference is fixed, is that we believe that the role of the states concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict must not be based on mere anticipation and waiting until the big powers agree on the convening of the conference. This means that the Arab role should not be confined to waiting. No, our role must be a contribution that helps advance the process and push it forward.

Hence, there must be a constant Arab coordination designed to exert an effective pressure and influence on all other parties, be they regional or international, in a bid to prod them to accelerate their moves and to crystallize a unified stand on any proposals or plans that might be submitted by any party on the negotiation formula. We know that there are Israeli ideas calling for the holding of bilateral negotiations under Soviet-U.S. auspices. We reject this proposal out of an eagerness to realize a comprehensive solution under effective and not bogus international supervision.

Of course, there are statements and claims on other formulas, such as those pertaining to the bilateral solution and the bilateral negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Some of the statements made or utterances voiced by Palestinian sources are being used to distort the Palestinian stance and the PLO's policy in this regard.

However, we would like to affirm on this that we are the party most eager to see an effective international conference convene. We are also the party most eager to see all bases of the comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict discussed within the framework of that conference. Our proposal regarding the effecting of coordination among the five Arab parties concerned is a tangible and categorical confirmation of our intentions and objectives, as we seek to formulate a unified Arab objective during all phases, including the phase of preparing for the convening of the international conference. Furthermore, we seek the unification and coordination of the Arab stands conveyed to the parties concerned, including Washington. This would enhance the credibility of the Arab stance on the one hand and strengthen the role of all concerned Arab parties, including the PLO.

[Al-Barqawi] There is something extremely important, the discussion of which requires extreme frankness. You are calling for inter-Arab coordination, but do you not think that there is a more urgent need for inter-Palestinian coordination against a background of evident differences between the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the PLO Executive Committee? The evidence for this is the open letter to Nayif Hawatimah by Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, and the differences over Salah Khalaf's recorded statement on the famous videocassette.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh laughs and says: "Please allow me not to answer this question."

[Al-Barqawi] The idea of forming a provisional Palestinian government is said to be losing ground. How true is this?

['Abd Rabbuh] There is no retreat from the idea. The issue is still being studied and discussed by all Palestinian circles. It is important that delay in forming the provisional government should not create any vacuum. The PLO Executive Committee is performing all the tasks of the government. All countries with which we have relations or contacts have been informed about this.

There are internal and external factors demanding that we discuss this question carefully and deeply. All the discussions are based on the Palestine National Council resolutions in this respect. We hope that the creation of this government in the near future will give new impetus to consecrate a wide-scale recognition of the Palestinian rights and state.

[Al-Barqawi] Right-wing and religious parties have made progress in the recent Israeli municipal elections. Is this not disappointing to those who wager on opposite changes in the Israeli community?

['Abd Rabbuh] We have to look at the current changes in the Israeli community from more than one perspective. Differences in the structure of this community are ever growing. The role and influence of the forces calling for peace and recognition of the PLO are becoming greater. The PLO maintains the view that its relationship with the Israeli democratic forces that adopt firm stands in support of a just peace and for the Palestinian people's right to an independent state is taking on a historical value. It is necessary to indicate that the influence of these forces grows as the role of rightist forces grows.

The rightists in Israel are still deluding the Israeli community into thinking that it is possible to turn the clock back. They are also frightening the Israeli community from peace with the Palestinian people. However, these are only temporary factors. The hammer of the intifadah [uprising] is banging in the ears and minds of the Israelis, and the Palestinian peace calls, stemming as they are from the assertion of equal rights between two peoples and two states, also help establish a new channel for awareness inside the Israeli community. However, we should not fall victims of the illusion that such a development will take place in a short time. The mobilization of the Israeli community over centuries and Israel's organic bonds with the United States—which give it a distinguished strategic position in the general U.S.

plan—slow the process of change inside the Israeli community. The process is also slow because of the fact that the Palestinian peace onslaught is still young and the Arab support for the Palestinian cause, whether by governments or by parties and popular organizations and forces, is not enough. It can be said, nevertheless, that the process is moving and cannot be stopped, for, the Palestinian intifadah cannot be stopped.

Beirut Envoy Queries U.S. Seriousness on Talks

JN1103160289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU' in Arabic 9 Mar 89 p 15

[Interview with PLO Beirut representative Shafiq al-Hut in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [AL-ITTIHAD] What is your opinion on the course of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

[Al-Hut] What dialogue? The United States has not yet made up its mind if it wants serious dialogue. All it has done so far is to remove the blame from its shoulders and retrieve its credibility in the world and among the European countries. Had Washington been serious about dialogue, it would have taken the early initiative to freeze or cancel the Congressional decision considering the PLO a terrorist organization. It is highly shocking that such a superpower as the United States agrees to take such a stand, which is unacceptable both mentally and morally. [passage omitted]

Broadcasting Official Denied U.S. Entry Visa

JN0903153289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Mar 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (WAKH)—The U.S. authorities have refused to grant an entry visa to Yahya Rabah, director general of Palestinian radio stations, to participate in the international conference of the radio broadcasting unions scheduled to begin its 3-day meetings in the U.S. capital next Sunday.

In a statement to WAKH in Baghdad today, Rabah said that this refusal comes after 40 days of waiting and following the efforts by the general secretariat of Arab radio broadcasting unions and the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

The Palestinian official was expected to participate in the conference, which will be held in the United States for the first time, in his capacity as member of the administrative council of the Arab radio broadcasting union, which has 25 seats at the conference, and also in his capacity as representative of Palestinian radio stations.

He pointed out that the U.S. consul in Baghdad informed him on 1 February of the need to get the approval of the Washington authorities so as to get an entry visa to the United States. However, he added, the U.S. consul told him yesterday that he did not get the approval.

The international conference of the radio broadcasting unions, in which 10 unions are taking part and which is held once every 2 years, will be held in the U.S. capital this year and will be hosted by the National Assembly of U.S. Broadcasters.

More on 'Arafat's Offer To Visit Jerusalem

PM1503110889 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 12-13 Mar 89 p 14

[More on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Olga Bisera in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Bisera] What about visiting Jerusalem to negotiate with Shamir, who describes you as a murderer and whom you call a criminal?

['Arafat] Do not insult me. I am willing to negotiate with those who want peace. There will be no peace as long as the Palestinian people's rights are ignored. We are not asking for the moon. We are asking for the implementation of the UN resolutions that we have recognized and that clearly envisage the Israelis' withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. This is why we want the international conference. I am not a terrorist. I condemn terrorism. I am a freedom fighter, but nobody can prevent me from working for the liberation of our occupied territories.

[Bisera] Do you believe you have done everything necessary to convince Israel of your good intentions, or do you have something else in reserve to further enhance your credibility?

['Arafat] What I did and said in Geneva should be enough. It convinced 138 UN countries of our credibility. I know there is a controversy about our fighters' activity in southern Lebanon. This activity can be suspended. But only on three conditions—that Israel end its air raids, that it end the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, and that it end the use of weapons in suppressing the infitadah [uprising].

[Bisera] Did you discuss all this with Mubarak at your meeting?

['Arafat] Of course...

[Bisera] But for a long time you and President Mubarak were not so friendly. What changed the president's [preceding word in Arabic] attitude toward you?

['Arafat] Actually we have had close relations from the outset. Even back in Al-Nasir's day I had close relations with the Egyptian leaders. Perhaps not many people know this, but I am a reserve officer in the Egyptian Army and, as such, I took part in two wars, defending Egypt. In 1951 I fought with the commandos against the British troops along the Suez Canal and in 1956 during the Anglo-Franco-Israeli invasion. In any case, there is no peace without Egypt. And there is no war without Egypt. The same applies to us Palestinians. President Mubarak lights our path like a real brother.

Factions Condemn Statement

JN1403200389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Palestinian resistance factions and parties have condemned 'Arafat's departure from the Palestinian consensus and called for escalating the struggle against the enemy.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] yesterday stongly condemned the statements recently made by Yasir 'Arafat to the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA in which he expressed his readiness to visit Jerusalem and hold talks with the Zionist enemy.

In a press statement distributed in Damascus, the PFLP affirmed that the readiness voiced by 'Arafat to visit Jerusalem on the pretext of persuading the Zionists to approve of convening an international conference constitutes a crude violation of the Palestinian national consensus resolutions and an acceptance of the principle of holding direct and bilateral negotiations that are rejected by the Palestinian Arab people and their nationalist forces.

The PFLP also asserted that 'Arafat's readiness to walk the same path taken by the murdered Al-Sadat is not only indicative of the presence of capitulatory tendencies, but also shows how far 'Arafat is ready to go in his efforts to meet U.S. conditions.

Concluding its statement, the PFLP warned against going to extremes in voicing stands that conflict with the resolutions of the executive and legislative institutions of the PLO and also with the Palestinian masses' aspirations and sentiments.

In a related development, PFLP political bureau member Abu Ahmad Fu'ad, has affirmed that the fedayeen operations against the Zionist enemy troops in southern Lebanon fall in line with the strategy being pursued by the Palestinian revolution factions as regards the escalation of armed struggle against the Zionist enemy until the liberation of Palestine.

Fu'ad added: Through the operations we are carrying out, we seek to tell world public opinion and the U.S. Administration that it is our legitimate right to launch this type of struggle, as the UN charter and the conventions of international legitimacy recognize that this is a legitimate right and not terrorism.

Moreover, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has affirmed that the statements made by Yasir 'Arafat and in which he voiced his readiness to visit Jerusalem reflect a serious political line that seeks to normalize Arab-Zionist relations under the banner of Palestine.

In a statement distributed yesterday, the front said that these statements stab the national and pan-Arab struggle. The front added that these statements constitute a departure from and a flagrant and serious violation of the Palestinian consensus decisions and the Arab summit resolutions. Besides, the front added that these statements inflict the gravest harm on the popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and confuse and frustrate the ranks of our people and revolution.

The statement also denounced the statements made by 'Arafat and called on all Palestinian forces and factions and all sectors of the Palestinian people's masses to reject these calls and confront them by escalating the national and pan-Arab struggle and exposing and baring the objectives behind these serious calls.

The Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party has affirmed that the U.S. plan, which the U.S Administration intends to propose to the PLO and the Zionist entity, is a new U.S. conspiracy that seeks to stop the intifadah [uprising] and end the Palestinian national struggle.

In a press statement made in Damascus yesterday, the party said: The U.S. plan, recently published in THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES, provide for a cessation of demonstrations, riots, the distribution of pamphlets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and also for halting military operations from southern Lebanon in return for reducing the Zionist military troop concentrations and siege measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, releasing detainees, reopening universities, and tackling the issue of taxes.

The party pointed out that this plan converges with the Rabin plan and the Zionist contacts with some shaken quarters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also converges with the defeatist proposals voiced daily by the 'Arafatist leadership, beginning with the call for the establishment of an economic and political federation with the Zionists, voicing readiness to negotiate with them anywhere even before the convening of the international conference, and ending with expressing a readiness to travel to the Zionist entity.

The party added that the Palestinian intifadah has constituted a rebirth of the Palestinian struggle.

DFLP Denounces Offer

NC1403215889 Paris AFP in English 2137 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, March 14 (AFP)—A Damascus-based faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization denounced Tuesday PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's reported offer to go to Jerusalem in search of peace.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), headed by Nayif Hawatimah, said in a communique that the proposal had not been approved by the PLO governing bodies.

The DFLP joined its voice to that of another Damascus-based group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which said Monday it "condemns and denounces" Mr. 'Arafat's proposal.

The DFLP and the PFLP are the two biggest factions in the PLO after Mr. 'Arafat's Fatah. [passage omitted]

Fatah Dissidents Issue Threat

NC1503064189 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The dissident Fatah, the Uprising Movement, led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], threatened last night to kill PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat because of his willingness to visit Jerusalem. The movement issued a statement in Damascus in which it announced that any Palestinian who considers visiting Jerusalem will have sentenced himself to death.

The Fatah dissidents' statement noted that direct discussions actually have begun between 'Arafat and Israel through 'Arafat's representatives inside Israel. The statement added that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had mediated 'Arafat's visit to Jerusalem. It noted, however, that the visit had been postponed for a number of reasons.

Soviet Message on Mideast Political Developments

JN1403171489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, received a message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the political developments in the Middle East region and the efforts to solve the Palestine question. The message was delivered by the Soviet ambassador in Tunis upon reception of the Palestinian chief yesterday in the Tunisian capital.

This message comes 2 days before the second round of Palestinian-U.S. talks to be held tomorrow, Wednesday, between Palestinian leaders and the U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

This is the second message the Palestinian leadership has received from the Soviet leadership in 1 week. The PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi received a similar message last Friday.

PLF Fighters Die in Clash With 'Zionist Troops'

JN1403204489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Palestinian resistance men yesterday morning carried out a daring heroic operation against the Zionist troops in northern Palestine, inflicting huge losses in manpower and equipment on the enemy. Three Palestinian fedayeen were martyred during the operation.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] said that one of its groups managed at 0100 to broach the wire border fence and went deep in the direction of the Al-Manara [Ramim] settlement. Immediately, the group clashed with the enemy and its mechanized patrols guarding the settlement. These patrols went deep inside the settlement and waged moving combat activities in all directions in the streets of the settlement. That combat continued for over 4 hours.

The statement indicated that the enemy panicked, as it began, in large-scale operations, to comb the area in all directions leading to the settlement. However, the fedayeen managed to take the enemy troops by surprise in various positions. This prompted the enemy to seek the help of further mechanized troops, not to mention helicopters and paratroops.

The statement went on to say: The heroic fedayeen continued to confront the enemy vehicles with rockets and managed to destroy two vehicles and kill or wound their occupants. Besides, the fedayeen managed to inflict many casualties among the ranks of the enemy troops.

The statement said: Three of the fedayeen group were martyred. These were heroic martyr Fahd Qadim Juhjuh, heroic martyr Qasim Muhammad Ahmad Siwawih, and heroic martyr Muhammad Jum'ah Humaydi.

In a political statement, the front affirmed its determination to continue to pursue the course based on armed struggle and its readiness to confront all voices that call for ending this struggle or for observing a truce in the intifadah [uprising] being staged in the Palestinian territories.

'Uprising' Popular Committees Issue Call No 36

JN1403170889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The popular and national committees of the intifadah [uprising] in Palestine have issued Call No 36. The following are the most important points in the call:

1. The popular and national committees highly praise the struggle of our Palestinian people who defeated the occupation's regular army. This created further confusion in the Zionist staff, and consequently, the regular army was replaced by the border guard. Yitzhaq Rabin should know that the masses of the intifadah reiterated their determination to confront the border guard with more violence and to defeat them. They will fare no better than the regular army.

2. The popular committees highly praise the heroic stands of our kinfolk in Nabulus and Gaza for their sacrifices and their brave confrontation of the occupation forces. O people of Jabal al-Nar [Nabulus], proceed with your sacrifices and confrontation. And together we will walk on the road of freedom and victory. Proceed with your sacrifices and confrontation to reduce the pressure on our kinfolk in other areas.

3. The popular and national committees affirm that if any of our strugglers falls as a martyr in the West Bank and Gaza the escalation and violent confrontation with the occupation authorities and settlers is the real honor bestowed on the soul of the heroic martyr. This is in addition to practicing all kinds of escalations, such as processions and symbolic funerals.

4. We call on those who have not yet resigned from the Civil Administration departments to immediately tender their resignations and to consider this call a final one. The strike forces will strongly follow up the implementation of this call.

5. We view with seriousness the bestial practices and inhumane conditions that the strugglers are experiencing in the detention camps, particularly Ansar-3. Therefore, we call on the international organizations to intervene to close the detention camps. Proceeding from this, we condemn the assassinations' campaign against our people's strugglers and warn against continuing this.

6. We highly praise the boycott of Zionist products in the West Bank and Gaza. We call on the brother merchants and our masses in Gaza to escalate the boycott of these products. On the other hand, we view with seriousness the practices of some factories and merchants who market Zionist commodities under Arab names. We also call on our brave merchants to get rid of the Zionist commodities before 18 March. The people must not purchase Zionist commodities.

7. We call on the sons of our Palestinian people in Gaza not to put tags on their private and public vehicles allowing them to enter other areas. We also make an urgent call for the resignation of the Arab administrative directors in the Civil Administration, such as the traffic, tax, and customs departments in Gaza.

8. We call on the chartered accountants not to prepare statements for the tax and customs departments. We call on our masses not to pay fees and taxes without exception with insistence on challenge and confrontation.

9. We call on all teachers for the need to carry out popular and home education programs as well as to organize popular education committees from teachers and students in each district, village, and camp. As we look with seriousness at the closure of educational institutions by the occupation authorities, we call on the international organizations, particularly UNESCO, to intervene to expose the occupation stultification of our people. We also call on our university institutes to admit the largest number of new students.

10. We call for the need to settle labor disputes on a national ground. We also call for forming national arbitration committees in this regard.

11. We call on our people to renounce the phenomenon of sidewalk vendors and roaming moneychangers. We call for ending this phenomenon completely before 20 March 1989. We also call on our masses to completely abide by the days of general strike.

12. We look with seriousness at some foreign and local parties' encouragement of emigration from Palestine as a result of the economic pressure practiced by the occupation against our kinfolk and people. We call on our masses to boycott these suspect attempts and warn those parties of the danger of continuing their attempts. They must know that we have lists of names on this.

On the other hand, it is a national duty to cling to the land.

Negev Tribes Urged Not To Serve in Border Guard

JN1303191489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] To our honorable brothers of Bani Ma'ruf—to our brothers of the Negev tribes. Undoubtedly, you must be following the news and details of the heroic intifadah [uprising] carried on by your heroic people in the valiant West Bank and Gaza Strip. You must also be following the news and details of this new wave of terrorism, rancor, and crime mounted by the leaders of the Zionist occupation. The latest plan they are implementing against our people to put down the intifidah was to deploy border guards that include some of your sons and brothers. The enemy leaders are threatening that the border guards are more ferocious, bloody, and violent. This means that the leaders of Zionist occupation are trying to deploy your sons and brothers to carry out what they have failed to implement through the army and reservists. They are attempting to plunge your sons and brothers in the sea of crime and blood.

Our kinfolk of Bani Ma'ruf; our brothers in the Negev tribes: We call on you to rob the Zionist enemy—the enemy of our people and rights—of this malicious opportunity and make their plan boomerang and backfire. Many a Zionist officer and soldier has declared his refusal to be carried away with the Zionist plan and the Zionist crime. Your sons and brothers in the border guard will do well to deny our enemy this chance and to reject to plunge themselves in the plan of criminality and terror and side with their people rather than the enemy. Let them not be a tool in the hands of the enemy to be wielded to implement its terrible plan.

Our kinfolk of Bani Ma'ruf and our tribes in the Negev: We call on you to measure up to the responsibilities and hope that your sons and brothers in the border guard will be a shield protecting their people; you have since the first days of the intifadah expressed your deep Palestinian sentiments and your honorable traditions when you extended aid to your kinfolk in the village of Rahat and Beersheba and Ashqelon as well as other villages—the people of the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We are confident you will always be on the side of your people's call and the call of the Palestinian homeland and the large Palestinian hope.

Al-Husayni on Occupied Territories Situation

PM1403124289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 89 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of Jerusalem's Arab Studies Society, by Mahir 'Uthman in London—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Uthman] A few months ago the PLO proposed that the occupied Palestinian territories be placed under UN supervision for a short transitional period. How do you view that proposal?

[Al-Husayni] The occupied territories' inhabitants are exposed to a fierce campaign designed not only to curtail their freedom as citizens, but also to destroy the foundations of their existence. The occupation authorities confiscate land, establish settlements, and demolish homes and buildings including historic landmarks, such as ancient homes—as happened in Nabulus, for instance. Operations of expulsion from the occupied territories are continuing against citizens. There are also attempts to destroy anything classified as infrastructure, whether in the education, economic, health, or other fields. This prompts us to take swift measures to protect the Palestinian existence in Palestinian territories. And a transitional period under international protection would undoubtedly give the Palestinian people the opportunity to express their will freely for the sake of building their independent state for the entire Palestinian people, both in the homeland and the diaspora.

['Uthman] To what extent has the intifadah [uprising] succeeded in building alternative national institutions to the Israeli occupation institutions?

[Al-Husayni] In view of the occupation's vicious nature and the fact that Israel has persisted for the past 20 years in destroying all Palestinian society's infrastructures, the intifadah's attainments are considered major achievements, regardless of the shortcomings. The objective conditions are difficult, but the waging of an even greater struggle over a long period of time will enable us to firmly establish our alternative institutions and destroy the occupation's institutions. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] How successful has the Palestinian boycott of Israeli commodities and products been?

[Al-Husayni] We can say that in most areas most Israeli commodities that have Arab alternatives have been dispensed with. Furthermore, the use of Israeli commodities, especially luxuries, has been reduced to a minimum.

In some areas into which traders brought Israeli goods, the people's committees confiscated the goods and threw them into the streets, where citizens trampled them, despite their poor economic situation. None of the citizens bent down to pick up those goods. Our masses proudly trampled those good and left them scattered in the streets, expressing their refusal to deal with Israeli products.

National industry has managed to increase its output, and in certain sectors Israeli products have been eliminated completely. I believe that by providing practical backing for other factories or establishing new factories, Israeli products would be eliminated completely from Palestinian markets, especially in the food and plastics fields. Israeli products have been defeated in the current battle in the pharmaceuticals, soft drinks, and confectionery fields.

['Uthman] How would you assess Palestinian national unity inside [the occupied territories]? Are there any obstacles to its completion?

[Al-Husayni] The intifadah has managed to maintain minimum national struggle relations. By this, I mean the relationship between the Unified National Command [of the intifadah] and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. We are approaching a phase in which we will witness more cooperation and coordination—which would lead us to more unity. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] How do you assess the recent local council elections in Israel, especially with regard to Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Undoubtedly there is a move to the right in Israel as a whole, but this does not mean that the Israeli masses have elected or backed the Likud and its policies. The municipal council elections are held on the basis of the candidates rather than their party affiliations. Besides, the increase in the number of religious forces does not necessarily mean that they agree with the Likud's policy and plans, though this makes Israeli society appear to be moving to the right.

The battle has not yet been settled, and I disagree with Shamir's attempt to portray the election results as a victory for his hard-line policy. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] What is your opinion of Israel's official insistence on not returning Arab East Jerusalem and of Palestinian adherence to the city?

[Al-Husayni] The intifadah has proved how attached our people are to Arab Jerusalem. This is clear to anyone who can see and hear. Although this insistence had always existed under the surface, it is now clearly above the surface.

['Uthman] What is the aim of your current visit to London and of your intended visit to New York?

[Al-Husayni] In addition to responding to the invitation sent to me by political institutions and seminars as well as academic organizations, my special interest is to explain the internal Palestinian position to European and U.S. circles, in terms of our insistence on establishing the Palestinian state and not accepting partial solutions and our rejection of any alternatives to the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Israel is trying to deceive the European and U.S. public, including official political circles. This is why I believe it is my duty to clarify the truth of the matter, especially since the Israelis have tried to introduce me as a potential alternative to the Palestinian leadership. I have come to say that the European governments and the U.S. Government must not fall into the Israeli trap and that we inside can provide hundreds of martyrs and scores of Nelson Mandelas, but they will not find a single Quisling among us. [passage omitted]

PLO Radio Examines U.S.-Israeli 'Game of Time'

JN0803194789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1909 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Station commentary: "The Game of Gaining Time in the Joint U.S.-Israeli Policy"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation. On the broad screen of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict raging under the banner of vigorous blessed Palestinian intifadah [uprising], we can see more details everyday, continued political moves, various sides developing their stands, thus far unknown things, and the collapse of many established facts that the enemies had adhered to for a long time. If we take a sample of the stands revolving around the raging Palestinian-Zionist conflict, we find that the joint U.S.-Israel policy depends on the game of time; that is, procrastination and avoidance of direct challenges. This is in the hope that time and procrastination will strip the Palestinian side of the positive elements accumulated by Palestinian action. This policy is pursued through various forms of pressure to freeze the Arab position supporting the Palestinian struggle, giving the Zionist military power a full chance to create new facts, and circumventing essential facts through [words indistinct].

Under the blessed Palestinian intifadah, its splendid action, and in light of its wide-ranging impact, the joint U.S.-Israeli policy's game of time falls apart, gradually loses its effectiveness, and, moreover, turns into a negative factor against the Zionist entity on the one hand and against U.S.-Arab relations on the other. Within this framework, it is useful to display some of the recent various stands that revolve around the raging Palestinian-Zionist conflict. The first of these stands is this decisive assertion by Brother Faysal al-Husayni that it is impossible for Israel to find in the occupied Palestinian land alternatives to the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This decisive assertion has been frequently reiterated by our masses in the occupied land over the years. It completely obstructs the abortive Zionist attempts and maneuvers clung to by the likes of Shamir, Rabin, Arens, and others.

In fact, these attempts seem strange and abnormal, as described by William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office. The leaders of the Zionist entity cannot draw useful conclusions from their futile use of the severest degrees of violence and terrorism against the masses of the intifadah, which lost nothing of its great splendor, growing effectivenss, and continuous success.

However, despite these clear facts, we find the U.S. stand continuing the same futile game—the game of time. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that time is not appropriate for new political initiatives or for the convening of an international conference. What do the Americans want? They want, as everybody knows, to give themselves more time for maneuvers and to give the Zionist terrorist force more time in the hope that it will ease the pressure of the great facts imposed by the major Palestinian action.

Of course, we realize that U.S. policy cannot change by merely asking it to. However, the comprehensive Palestinian decision is to continue to escalate confrontation on the ground and to continue to push Palestinian initiatives forward because this is the only way to completely besiege the joint U.S.-Israeli game of time and make it useless and have it explode in the face of those engaged in it.

Greetings to our great militant people and to our blessed, heroic intifadah. Revolution until victory.

PLO Denounces Al-Quds Radio, Jibril, Syria

JN1403194489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1743 GMT 14 Mar 89

["News Analysis"]

[Text] In the past 2 weeks, 18 Palestinian martyrs have fallen and about 90 were injured, most of whose injuries are dangerous, in all parts of the occupied Palestinian

territories. At the same time, the Zionist occupation authorities blew up 21 homes in the villages of Bayt Tammin, Tannuriyah, Idnah, and 'Azzun. They closed off eight homes in the Gaza Strip and three in the Janin region. They also closed down 30 shops in Hebron and Bayt Sahur.

Along with these Zionist terrorist methods against the people of the glorious intifadah [uprising], the people of the intifadah everywhere are being subjected to concentrated media campaigns implemented by the Zionist media in participation with agent organs that directly serve the Zionist enemy. By these tools, we mean those that hide behind Al-Quds Radio, which broadcasts from the Syrian territories under the supervision of the sectarian regime in Damascus. It is a station that hoists the banner of Arab Palestine, but practices destruction and betrayal against the PLO and the intifadah. Proceeding from this, we understand that the occupation's War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered that jamming be stopped on this suspect radio station. Rabin informed Finnish Television this week, and I quote verbatim: I am very happy with the role that Ahmad Jibril's radio station is playing and which broadcasts from Syria these days, especially since it attacks Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO. It has great influence on the camp residents in the West Bank and Gaza in light of its role in attacking 'Arafat. I have issued instructions not to jam Jibril's station, knowing that there were instructions previously to jam it. This is the comment by the Zionist occupation's War Minister Rabin, blessing the services of Al-Quds Radio, which provides him with information and services and adds to discrediting the PLO and the glorious intifadah, while taking cover behind concern, Arab identity, and nationalism. It carries the name of Jerusalem [Al-Quds].

What we wish to affirm today—and we are convinced that the masses of our Palestinian people, the masses of the intifadah, the masses of the martyrs, the masses whose homes are being blown up, the masses of daily suffering in all locations of the intifadah—what we wish to affirm today is that the Jibril station called Al-Quds is a purely Syrian station that expresses the viewpoints of the sectarian Syrian regime, the viewpoint of this regime and its directions. This regime has participated with the Zionist enemy in hitting the Palestinian revolution, containing it in Lebanon's camps, and marring the intifadah.

Al-Quds Radio, which hides behind empty and meaningless slogans, is a purely Syrian station, not because Ahmad Jibril is a former officer in the Syrian regime's army, but because it is a station that participates with the Zionist media in doubt-casting campaigns against the PLO, the intifadah, and its national leadership. It even casts doubts on the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian citizens as has repeatedly happened.

The Palestinian masses in all parts of the intifadah, who are offering martyrs, wounded, and detainees every day, hoisting the Palestinian banners, and confronting the Nazi-Zionist terrorism, these masses of the intifadah have not been incapable of highlighting the Syrian regime's betrayal of the revolution and the intifadah. They write slogans condemning this regime and its agents alongside the slogans calling on escalating the intifadah against the Zionist occupation. These people have strongly rallied round their national leadership, the PLO, headed by the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

The masses of the intifadah, who saw the agent Ahmad Jibril with his hands dripping blood in the camps of northern Lebanon in 1983, know to what level of betrayal he has sunk and to what amount of betrayal the sectarian regime in Damascus has reached. It is not strange that Rabin blesses the Syrian regime's station, which is named Al-Quds and supervised by their creation, Jibril.

Our Palestinian people have acquired sufficient national immunity against all doubt-casting campaigns practised by the losers and cowards in Damascus. It is not wrong to consider Al-Quds Radio, directed by the begrudging Syrian regime under Jibril's banner, just another Zionist station blessed by Rabin. As for the people of the intifadah, they have always been the people of heroism and sacrifices, the people who have not been shaken by the yellow wind of betrayal blowing from Damascus. The intifadah has removed the mask and revealed the betrayal of the sectarian regime in Damascus and the failure of the puppets controlled by it; those like Ahmad Jibril. The intifadah will not go backward and will not stop as Rabin dreams, even if the Damascus regime and its creation, Ahmad Jibril, were at the service of the occupation's war minister.

Al-Asad's Positions on PLO, 'Arafat Scored

JN1303214289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1834 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O brothers, the Syrian president has had established traditions. The president of the Syrian regime, the Syrian regime itself, has had established traditions. President Hafiz al-Asad has had established traditions since 1970. The president is at a crisis. Palestine is in every house, and Yasir 'Arafat is in every house. Therefore, the president is at a crisis. The 8 March anniversary has come while the president is at a crisis. What will he say?

Naturally, he has nothing in mind except Palestine and Yasir 'Arafat—Palestine, for which the 8 March revolution was born, and Palestine, for which the Syrian president is seeking strategic parity. Naturally, it is hard for President al-Asad, the president of Palestine, Hafiz al-Asad, to see the Palestinian leadership violate the Palestine National Charter. Far be it for us to say it is hard for the president to see that Palestine has a charter,

that Palestine has a leadership, and that Palestine exists. The Syrian president believes that Palestine is a territory owned by him, that he has created it, and that it is [word indistinct].

President Al-Asad killed Burj al-Barajinah and rested at ease, and he also killed 'Ali, Rasim, Abu al-Walid, and Sarah and attended their funerals. The president killed Hamah and attended its funeral. How often Hamah deprived him of sleep!

It is hard for the president of Palestine to see us achieve no victory. We tell the Syrian president: Yes, yes, we will achieve victory, and we will turn Palestine into a land, a sovereignty, a state, an extension, a power, and an action outside its geography. We were in the air when we intervened in the Sykes-Picot maps. O your excellency the president, what will happen if we have our state? We will change the map. We have originally come to change the map because the map became outworn and because many things have passed from use.

The Syrian president is actually intelligent. He is for the Soviets, for the Americans, and for the Israelis. We remember well the 1982 agreement, and then the Murphy agreement. The Syrian president is also for the Iranians and, of course, for the Syrians. Hamah is only an example. The Syrian president is for the Lebanese. Lebanon's unity and independence are an example. The Syrian president, in the first place, is for the Palestinians. Beirut, Tripoli, and the expulsion of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] are also examples. The Syrian president is for the Arabs, for the Arab liberation movement, and for the world liberation movement. The president is also a [word indistinct], a lion's den, and an impregnable fortification. The president is also for everyone, and the president is a spark and a fire. God preserve the president.

Mr president, Palestine is at the threshold of its independence. We swear you will never enter it even [words indistinct]. You, President Al-Asad, you will never desecrate the soil of Palestine. God preserve you from all harm so that you live, see, hear, and choke to death because Palestine is coming, O president.

PLO Official on Constitution, Government

JN1303155489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 12 Mar 89 p 3

[By Lima al-Khalafawi]

[Text] A top Palestinian official says the Palestine Liberation Organisation is currently working on a constitution for the provisional government of the Palestinian independent state that will be open to all the Palestinians in the world. But he said, "We will not accept any condition concerning this issue." He added that all the Palestinians have the right to return to their homeland in accordance with the UN Resolution 149.

The Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council and the Fatah representatives to the Gulf and Kuwait, Salim al- Za'nun also told the ARAB TIMES that the first round of the international conference would be held later this year but would be restricted to the five permanent members of the Security Council while the next round would be held sometimes next year that would be attended by all concerned parties.

Israel is the only party which refuses to sit at the negotiating table alongside the Palestine Liberation Organisation Al-Za'nun said, adding that all regional problems in the world included the wars had been settled only through the negotiations. Al-Za'nun noted that Israel has been calling on almost all the Arab countries to negotiate the Middle East peace but refused to adopt the similar position with the PLO which is the sole legitimate representative of all the Palestinian people.

He claimed that the majority of the Israelis favour negotiations with the PLO, according to a recent opinion poll. "The intifadah [uprising] has made the majority of the Israelis to understand the crux of the Palestinian problem."

Concerning the Muslim-Christian representation in the proposed Palestinian government Al-Za'nun said: "We in Palestine never felt or faced such a sectarian issue as we always lived in harmony. This question never aroused [as published] and in all the governments in Palestine even before and during the British mandate, there were Christian members. The PLO executive committee also has Christian members."

Al-Za'nun said a provisional government will be declared when the date is set for an international peace conference. The provisional government will also announce the Palestinian delegation to take part in the peace conference. He said the level of the Palestinian delegation to the conference will depend upon the level of other delegations.

Al-Za'nun criticised the US position in the United Nations for blocking a move to admit Palestine as a full member in the UN. He said that this requires the approval of the UN Security Council, where US can deny this by vetoing any resolution. But he said there are attempts being currently carried by Soviet Union and some European countries to try and change the US position.

About the aid to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation, Al-Za'nun said that in spite of all the Israeli measures against banks, and exchange officies to block aid flow to the Palestinians the PLO is successfully providing not less than $750,000 every day to the occupied territories.

Al-Za'nun denied that there are any differences between the unified national leadership of the intifadah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). He added that although there are different views on some issues, both stand on the same platform to fight against the Israeli occupiers.

The official siad that Soviet Union recently exerted some efforts to bring about a reconciliation in the Syrian-Palestinian relations but these efforts lead to nothing as the Syrian leadership is still against the PLO leadership. He announced that PLO is trying with the Soviet Union to arrange a meeting of the five Arab frontline countries, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO to create a five member committee to adopt a unified stand in the peace conference. He added that the Soviet Union refused to resume diplomatic relations with Israel until it agrees to hold the international peace conference where the PLO will take part.

Adviser Discusses Agenda of Palestinian State

LD1103141889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0834 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA)—Political Adviser of the PLO leader Dr. Nabil Sha'th Saturday was quoted here as saying that a number of Palestinian experts are currently studying the new Palestinian state's first five-year development plan saying that the establishment of the state will be a reality within the next five years.

He told daily AL-SIYASAH published today that the 5-year plan will give priorities to a number of needs such as those of the population, land, and water, saying that 2.5 million Palestinians live in the occupied territories with a yearly increase of 2.9 percent, but in some places like Jerusalem the percentage reaches 3.60.

He added, that the main problem is water, as Israel had withdrawn about 90 percent of water supplies from the West Bank and Gaza furthermore the Zionists had confiscated about 52 percent of the Arab land to build settlements, he affirmed the need to remove the settlements when the Palestinian state is established and the same goes to the water resources.

Sha'th noted that he is expected that one million Palestinians will return back home during the first five years of the Palestinian state's independence.

In this case, he underlined the Palestinian state will need about 12 billion dollar for the services, housing, and water network projects.

"The economy of the Palestinian state will depend on tourism that one billion revenues Moslems would like to visit Holy Jerusalem, he said, adding that industry and agriculture will be two more important sources of national income.

Major portion [as received] of the Palestinian constitution were finalized by the committee assigned for this purpose, he noted.

Milhim Says 'Uprising' Aid Short of Pledges

JN1003104989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 Mar 89 p 19

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and director of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, has said $1 million in aid enters the occupied territories daily to support both the intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian people's institutions there. This aid is extended by various Arab and foreign sources as well as by international charity institutions.

In a statement to AL-WATAN, Milhim added that this sum does not at all meet needs. It is a very meager sum in comparison to the funds required daily for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to manage the people's affairs in view of the intifadah and to maintain the health, supply, and educational services, he said. Milhim pointed out that at the "intifadah" summit conference in Algiers, the PLO leadership sumbitted a report explaining the needs of the occupied territories in view of the intifadah and requesting that the minimum required sum be set at $57 million per month. Asked to reduce this figure, the PLO cut it down to the lowest possible level so the official sum the Arab states were requested to extend to the intifadah became approximately $43 million per month, he added.

Muhammad Milhim explained that the budget deficit in the presumed aid to the intifadah—based on the figure of $43 million submitted to the summit in comparison to the $1 million in daily aid to the occupied territories—amounts to $13 million per month. The Palestinian official asserted that no Arab state has thus far paid the sums allocated at the Algiers summit to support the intifadah. He pointed to the meager sums granted by some Arab states on bases apart from the ones agreed upon at the Algiers summit. Muhammad Milhim revealed to AL-WATAN that the magnitude of harm done to the Palestinian people's life and institutions in the West Bank and Gaza in 1 year of the intifadah had totaled $571 million by the end of 1988. He explained that 83 percent of the aid required for the intifadah is in the form of compensation for this harm, which has paralyzed most walks of life for the occupied territory residents. He asserted that because of the lack of sufficient funds to compensate for the harm inflicted on the occupied territory's residents, the PLO has confined compensations to the individual whose source of subsistence has been directly affected and who has thus become unable to lead his own life. As a result, the PLO has only extended 5 percent of the total $571 million sum. Therefore, we cannot compensate 95 percent of the harm inflicted on citizens, he added.

Milhim explained that the compensations granted to citizens in the West Bank and Gaza are distributed in the following manner: 2,000 Jordanian dinars [JD] are given to a martyr's famliy in a lump sum plus a stipend of 50 JD per month. If the martyr was married, then the wife's and children's allowances are added to the monthly compensation. A detainee receives 50 JD per month, whereas the wounded receive treatment free of charge at West Bank and Gaza hospitals or abroad. The director of the occupied homeland affairs department pointed out that the houses blown up by the occupation authorities will receive special consideration on compensations, based mainly on the value of the house and the magnitude of harm inflicted. Muhammad Milhim said the reason for the weak support extended to the occupied territories and the intifadah is not attributed to the strict measures being implemented by the occupation authorities banning the entry of these funds. He asserted that the PLO can introduce funds to the occupied territories regardless of their amount. Milhim viewed the weak support for the intifadah as a political decision designed to strangle and abort it. However, he asserted that this weak support will not terminate the intifadah because the masses in the occupied territories, which have been facing the enemy without material support for 1 full year, will maintain their intifadah using their own modest resources.

Palestine Press Service Reopens in Greece

JN0903142289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Mar 89 p 20

[Text] Athens, AL-ITTIHAD—The Jerusalem-based Palestine Press Service Office, which was closed by Israel during the first months of the Palestinian uprising, has restarted its press activities in Athens by covering events in the occupied territories and distributing news of these events.

Raymonda al-Tawil, proprietress of the Palestine Office and the magazine AL-'AWDAH; and Basim Abu Sumayyah, director of the Palestine office's news department, who will manage the office's Greece branch, arrived in Athens last week to begin the information activities of the office.

Algeria

Bessaieh Leaves for Riyadh ICO Meeting 12 Mar

LD1303111389 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 13 Mar 89 (APS)—Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, arrived Sunday to Riyadh where he will lead the Algerian delegation at the 18th session of the ministerial conference of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO). Bessaieh was welcomed upon arrival by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Mitterand Holds Press Conference, Departs

LD1003163889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The French president today concluded a 24-hour visit to Algeria, during which he held a series of discussions with President Chadli Bendjedid. Prior to his departure from Algiers, President Francois Mitterrand held a press conference, which was attended on behalf of Algiers Radio by Hizya Haideb. At the beginning of the conference, the French president commented on the series of talks he held here in Algiers with President Chadli Bendjedid:

[Begin Mitterrand recording] This meeting was warm, and wide-ranging, for there is no problem concerning Algeria and France which was not dealt with—not only the numerous bilateral aspects, but the major international issues which affect our two countries.

Thus I am leaving extremely satisfied with the work done, as well as with the opportunity offered to me to meet again in a confident and useful way with President Chadli Bendjedid.

In the bilateral sphere, the issues which arose were of an economic and financial nature. As for financial matters, recent agreements were signed between our two countries. As for economic matters, there are constant relations between Algeria and France, problems of development inherent to this country where we are, and the role which France can play—which, moreover, it is ready to play—to contribute to completing this needed development. Then there are the problems inherent to indebtedness, problems which are not the sole province of Algeria, naturally.

In the bilateral sphere there are also certain human aspects, the problem of separated families, there are also a certain number of French people who continue to live here or have returned to France whose rights have not yet been settled. But in the final analysis, these are phenomena which belong at the end of this story and the beginning of another, and which are handled with concern on both sides with correct and humane responses.

In the international sphere we dealt above all with the problems of what I don't dare call the region, but let us say, the Arab world—both the problem of the Israeli-Arab conflict, the problem of Lebanon, and the birth of this new institution of the united Maghreb. President Chadli Bendjedid spoke a great deal of this, and I was very interested in this conversation. I also thought that since I have to take over the presidency of the European Community in early July, I will certainly have the opportunity to return to the Maghreb, since I think this will be an opportunity to inaugurate a new kind of relationship between the two communities which are different in character but are heading towards the same objectives. Naturally there are other very important issues in East-West relations, the problems of disarmament. [end recording]

Bessaieh Comments on Talks With Mitterrand

LD1003212389 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh before his departure for Riyadh. [passage omitted]

Before meeting with the president, Mr Bessaieh made a statement on French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Algiers. He indicated that their talks dealt with bilateral cooperation. It was agreed that this cooperation stems from a long-term vision aimed at avoiding topical problems. There exists, he pointed out, a new vision of bilateral relations based on mutual respect and reciprocal interest. These talks, Mr Bessaieh added, also dealt with regional and international political issues, including in particular the developments experienced in the Arab Maghreb following the establishment of the regional Maghreb in entity, and the Saharan question, which is in the process of being settled on the basis of UN and OAU resolutions and of the efforts undertaken under the aegis of these two bodies with a view to organizing a referendum in Western Sahara. In addition, issues concerning the Mediterranean basin and political moves toward ensuring the stability of the region were discussed during the talks.

Mr Bessaieh added that the Middle East, with the central focus of Palestine, and the situation in Lebanon following the good offices of the Arab League, were touched on. These talks also permitted the question of the indebtedness of the developing countries to be discussed, as well as the French position, which invites the industrialized countries to open a dialogue with a view to finding a solution to this problem.

Broaching the prospects for Algerian-French cooperation in the context of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and the EEC, Mr Bessaieh pointed out that the AMU is working to establish a carefully designed integration. The examination of certain questions relating to economic development are continuing (?moreover) between the countries of the region, and in this connection Mr Bessaieh pointed out that relations between France and

Algeria or between the AMU and France are compatible with the economic choices of each country, and he indicated that the relations between the AMU and the EEC should be examined by the Maghreb countries so that they become mutually beneficial in the future and based on mutual respect. Each country has its own vision of these relations, and joint efforts will permit us to have a common vision of the future relations between the AMU and the EEC.

Communique on Iranian Oil Minister's Visit

LD1103111289 Algiers APS in Arabic 0845 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 11 Mar (APS)—A joint Algerian-Iranian communique was issued on Thursday following Algerian-Iranian talks which took place during Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh's official visit to Algeria. Here follows the text of the joint communique:

At the invitation of Sadek Boucena, minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum in the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited Algeria 7-10 March 1989.

The talks, headed by Boucena, addressed in particular the current situation in the international oil market and the prospects of broadening bilateral cooperation in industry and commerce.

Concerning the international oil situation, the two ministers studied developments in the situation since the last OPEC meeting, and reaffirmed the two countries' determination to work toward strengthening the organization to the benefit of unifying its ranks. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to respect the decisions of the last meeting to reach the price of $18 per barrel, as stipulated by the November agreement.

The two sides registered with satisfaction the decisions taken by some non-OPEC oil-producing countries, whose effective cooperation will have an impact in consoidating prices and stabilizing the market.

Concerning their study of bilateral issues, the two delegations assessed the possibility of cooperation in commerce and industry. The two ministers reaffirmed their determination to give impetus to the momentum of cooperation, a matter which would be of benefit to the two countries in the context of the search for economic integration, especially in the fields of gas, petroleum, petrochemicals and their by-products.

In this regard, the two ministers agreed to increase meetings between the parties concerned with a view to widening and strengthening all discussions.

Bendjedid Confers With Senegal's Diouf

LD1203122589 Algiers APS in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Algiers, 12 Mar, (APS)—A preliminary round of tete-a-tete talks was held at Jenan El Mithaq yesterday evening between President Chadli Bendjedid and President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The talks were later extended to include the members of the two delegations. [passage omitted]

President Diouf said he stopped over in Algeria to resume contacts with President Bendjedid and to discuss bilateral relations, the problems of Africa and the world, the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union, developments in the Middle East, and preparations for the next meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, due to be held in Dakar. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Flag Raised Over Tabah After Isreali Withdrawal

NC1503103589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1024 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—The Egyptian flag was raised over the Tabah area in southern Sinai at 1205 today amid great joy among Egyptians following the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the area and the lowering of the Israeli flag. Ahmad al-Mistiri, Egyptian consul general in Elat, as well as Egyptian security, customs, and administration officials, attended the flag-raising ceremony.

[Passage omitted] Egyptian nationals began entering the Tabah area immediately after the flag was raised. The new customs office at the new border point began operating in accordance with the regulations in force at the other customs points in the republic. The temporary release of taxable goods will be in force. Items which the customs office deems necessary for travelers during their trip will be recorded in their passports or in travel documents issued by passport departments. This is the same system used at other customs points.

Meanwhile, the new administration of the Sonesta Hotel assumed its duties. The services of a number of Israeli employees were terminated either because they did not own valid passports or because they refused to work. A total of 76 Egyptians began work at the hotel today. The number will go to 110 in 10 days.

A branch of Egypt Bank was opened at the Sonesta Hotel and is scheduled to begin providing service to clients today.

Fire Reported in Cairo Radio-TV Building

NC1403072689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0722 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Fire broke out on the top 3 floors of the 27-storey Egyptian Cairo and Television Building this morning. Firemen are working to control the fire.

Firemen Extinguish Fire

NC1403081889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0802 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Fire broke out this morning on a floor on which the administrative section is located as a result of fault in inner wiring away from the main cables that feed radio and television transmissions. Firemen have completely controlled and extinguished the fire, which continued for some time.

Fire Cause, Losses Unknown

NC1403083689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Fire broke out in the Egyptian Radio and Television Building on Maspero avenue this morning. Fire engines rushed to the building. Fire extinguishers in the building also were used to fight the fire. The blaze, whcih caused a suspension of radio transmission in the main station for some time, was brought under control. The cause of the fire and the losses resulting from it have not yet been determined.

Badr Rules Out Sabotage

NC1403094089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0908 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr has stressed that criminal or subversive actions are not suspected in the Radio and Television Building fire this morning. During his inspection of the fire-fighting operations, Badr said that initial evidence affirms that the fire resulted from friction in electric cables due to overload. He emphasized that such incidents are ordinary and expected in the function of the Radio and Television Building appliances.

The security organs managed to control the fire and completely extinguish it after 3 hours. There were no casualties among employees of the building or firefighters, but material losses in the building have not been determined and are being assessed by specialists.

The firefighters are currently removing water resulting from the fire combat operations away from the electric cables. Criminal laboratory experts are removing fire debris to detect any criminal evidence behind the incident. Major General Mamduh Bura'i, first assistant to the interior minister and Cairo security director, said that the fire broke out on the 26th, 27th, and 28th floors and that security forces and firemen moved to the scene as soon as they were notified. Maj Gen Bura'i said that approximately 20 fire engines went to the scene and managed to put the situation under control and extinguish the fire. An Interior Ministry source pointed out that the presence of the security forces deployed around the building is normal and is meant to keep the situation under control and guard the building. [passage omitted]

The Public Prosecution Office immediately began investigations into the circumstances of the fire and will later hear eyewitnesses.

Papers on Fire, Casualties

NC1503074189 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 15 Mar 89

[From the "press review"]

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Fire broke out early yesterday morning in the Egyptian television service building on Nile Corniche Road in the upper 26th, 27th, 28th floors of the building, killing two persons while seven others, among them two firemen, had to be treated for breathing troubles that resulted from the smoke.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr, who supervised the fighting of the fire that was brought under control three hours after it broke out, ruled out any suspicion of arson or sabotage and said that evidence indicated that the fire had started in electrical cables because of excessive loads.

Armed Forces fire fighters joined in putting out the blaze.

Television emission in the greater Cairo area was unimpaired and morning programmes were emitted [as received] on schedule, but emissions to other governorates were affected, reports AL-AKHBAR.

While the fire was being fought, reports AL-AHRAM, fire broke out in the fifteenth floor of the building at 10 a.m.

Morocco

Hassan Appoints Minister for Maghreb Affairs

LD1403223589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Summary] At the Royal Palace in Marrakech at noon today, King Hassan received Moulay Driss Alaoui Elmodaghri and appointed him secretary of state for foreign affairs entrusted with the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union. The king addressed him praising his outstanding qualities and stressing the importance of the job he is about to assume. The new secretary of state for foreign affairs was then sworn in.

PDRY Signs Administrative Sciences Protocol

LD1003162189 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Rabat March 10, (MAP)—Morocco and South Yemen Thursday concluded a protocol of agreement on cooperation in matters of administration. The protocol of agreement provides for the strengthening of cooperation in the areas of administrative staff training, the organization of training courses and the exchange of missions of study and research in administrative sciences matters. The protocol also provides for the exchange of documents and information related to the public administration and administrative reforms and the carrying out of joint studies. The two sides equally decided the setting up of a technical committee entrusted with elaborating and implementing a cooperation program.

Weekly THE FIRST HOUR Begins Publication

LD1203230589 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Casablanca, 12 Mar (MAP)—Moroccan print journalism was bolstered today by the publication of a new weekly newspaper, entitled AL-SA'AH AL-'ULA [THE FIRST HOUR]. This new weekly will publish general news. In particular, the first issue, which is 16 pages, includes a translated short story by Moroccan writer Mohamed Chokri, entitled: "Violence at the Beach" and other cultural and sports essays.

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Non-Participation in New Government

NC1403165889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (MENA)—Dr Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Front in Sudan, announced at a press conference today that the National Islamic Front [NIF] will not take part in the new expanded government now being formed under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. He confirmed that the NIF is in opposition as of today. He said that all the front's executive officials in the state's leading positions will tender their resignations immediately.

Dr al-Turabi said that some of the main reasons for the NIF stand and its non-participation in the new government are the inclusion of trade unions in the government, the absence of a commitment to apply Islamic shari'ah, and the collapse of the Sudanese economy.

Answering correspondents' questions on the isolation of the Islamic Front after its departure from the government, Al-Turabi said that the front has not become isolated; it has left the government not to evade responsibility but because the basis for its participation has collapsed and because the government's strength in defending the homeland is no longer guaranteed.

He stressed that the foreign plot has succeeded in sabotaging Sudan's national planning. He added that the NIF in opposition will continue to support the Armed Forces and the government in any authentic national action.

Al-Turabi praised Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council and member of the Democratic Unionist Party. He said: What we heard from him in his attempts to convince us to sign the phased program of the next government is closer to our way of thinking. He would have been one of us had it not been for his position as party chief.

On the NIF's view of Sudan's foreign relations, Al-Turabi said that the NIF will gain more from foreign relations in opposition than if it were in the government.

On the front's participation in the constitutional conference for peace in southern Sudan, Al-Turabi said that the front will take part in the conference while in opposition if the conference is held.

The State Council chairman received Dr Hasan al-Turabi today in a last attempt to convince the front to sign the next government's program and have an opportunity to participate in the government, but the front refused to do so.

The NIF occupies a number of leading positions, including that of Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad, speaker of the Constituent Assembly (the parliament). It had seven portfolios in the outgoing government, occupied the posts of a number of regional governors, and has 49 deputies in the Constituent Assembly. Dr al-Turabi was deputy premier and foreign minister in the outgoing government.

Trade Union Refuses To Join New Government

NC1403184689 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, March 14 (AFP)—The Sudan Workers' Trade Union Federation (SWATF) said Tuesday that it would not join a broad-based government of national unity due to be formed shortly by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Meanwhile, the leader of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF) said that the NIF would go into opposition, adding that a "foreign plot" on behalf of Sudanese rebels in the south of the country was behind the current government crisis. The NIF was in coalition with Mr. Al-Mahdi's Ummah Party in the government that resigned at the weekend.

SWATF's President Muhammad 'Uthman Jama attacked the authorities for failing to implement minimum wage agreements across the board while the NIF

leader, ex-Justice Minister Hasan al-Turabi, said foreign countries, which he did not name, had exerted pressure to have the front excluded from a new government. [passage omitted]

Mr. Al-Mahdi, under strong military pressure to form a broad-based "government of national salvation", said that portfolios would be shared out "as soon as possible" among parliamentary parties, other political groups and trade unions.

But Mr. Jama, whose SWATF groups more than a million trade unionists, said the government had not abided by an agreement to extend a minimum monthly wage of 300 Sudanese pounds (25 dollars) from the civil service to the private sector and state-owned companies, dating it back to last July. He warned that the central committee of the SWATF had decided to launch a three-day general strike if the government did not meet its demands two weeks hence. In pleading for extra time to form a new government earlier this month, Mr. Al-Mahdi had asked the unions to renounce strike action. [passage omitted]

State Council Meets With Military Command

EA1403172389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The chairman and members of the State Council met General Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and members of the General Command this afternoon at the Republican Palace. The meeting was in the framework of the council's meetings with institutions belonging to the State Council.

Mr Idris al-Banna said the meeting was reassured about the speed with which the government is to be formed and [word indistinct] of the Armed Forces in bringing into force the contents of their memo. He stressed that the work is going on efficaciously in order to form the government as soon as possible. His excellency added that the meeting discussed the question of [word indistinct] and asserted the stability of the efforts to achieve peace in (?Sudan).

Armed Forces Overrun Rebel Camp 11 Mar

EA1403140589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0916 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Juba, 14th March, SUNA—Four outlaws were killed and another one was captured by the Armed Forces last Saturday [11 March] when the army overran an outlaw camp in the context of its current operations to secure the area. This was was announced to SUNA yesterday by the commander of the Equatoria military area, Major General Allison Magaya. He told SUNA that three Kalashnikov rifles and a Goryunov were seized during the attack, reiterating that the Armed Forces are capable of detering the rebels.

Al-Mahdi Addresses Relief Conference 8 Mar

EA0803203989 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi addressed the conference of donor states and organizations involved in (?emergency) relief work at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum at noon today. He commended efforts of the donor states and organizations in assisting the displaced people in the southern regions. He said the problem of the displaced people is primarily humanitarian. Religious and political duties make it imperative for us to solve this problem, he said, adding that the present struggle in the south was having an adverse effect on civilians. Al-Mahdi stressed the need for [word indistinct] the relief operations from the effects of the on-going struggle. He reviewed government efforts to this end. He referred to the positive role of the International Red Cross as a neutral organization in this area, and stressed that the government would work for the elimination of obstacles hampering relief operations.

Agreement Reached With Relief Organizations

EA1103162289 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1255 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Delivery of relief aid to the affected areas in the south in concert with non-governmental relief organizations has been discussed during a meeting here between Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the director of a U.S. emergency foreign aid group. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum and the director of the [word indistinct] office in Sudan. A similar meeting was held by Al-Mahdi with the UNICEF executive director and representatives of the U.N. secretary general in the course of the donor countries' conference currently in session in Khartoum. Meeting here yesterday, USAID and international bodies donating emergency relief to Sudan unanimously accepted the social plan of action. The plan involves providing 273 [as heard] tons of relief aid worth $77 million. The participants discussed the decision to establish a high ministerial committee on delivery of the relief aid. They decided to accept the idea that the voluntary organizations be co-opted by the local committees responsible for the distribution of the relief aid in the affected areas. Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the government would do its best to deliver relief aid to the affected areas before the rains begin. He expressed hope that John Garang would agree to the UNICEF executive manager's leading a delegation to Addis Ababa to discuss the issue with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army leaders.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Discusses Arab Maghreb Union

JN1303205289 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Mar 89 p 20

[Interview with Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh by unidentified correspondent in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] What were the steps taken by the Arab Maghreb countries to realize the establishment of the union?

[Escheikh] Establishing the greater Arab Maghreb is in fact a response to the desires of the Maghreb peoples and a manifestation of their leaders will. This ambition represents a demand inherited by successive generations throughout history. It was a constantly hailed motto despite the many and, at times intentional, obstacles such as the colonialist times.

Many attempts were made but they used to come up against obstacles resulting from outside factors, in most cases, and various circumstantial considerations. However, the depth of these feelings and their roots in the hearts of the Maghreb peoples gave it a strength and rigidity which enabled it to weather all storms and assert itself because its stems from the depths.

We need only go back to contemporary history and proceed from the historic Tangiers conference in 1958 and the subsequent meetings and repeated attempts which at one point resulted in the establishment of the Permanent Arab Maghreb Consultative Committee which was an expression of a political will.

The concept of establishing the Arab Maghreb was entrenched in our minds since it is one of the constants of every Maghreb person's entity. It grew and gained momentum in the conscience of the Maghreb peoples. In addition to the overflowing emotion, it was characterized by mature logic, especially after it became clear that the age we live in now is the age of blocs and that we have no choice other than to close ranks and gather our forces if we want to cope with the great challenges awaiting us with more than just simple successes.

There was no doubt that we had to move in the direction of the Maghreb, overcome the obstacles, contain the tensions, and create the appropriate atmosphere for this line.

The 7 November change in Tunisia marked the beginning in normalizing relations with fraternal Libya and thus contributed toward clearing the atmosphere with and between the brothers and clarified relations between Morocco and Algeria. Thus, the historic Zeralda meeting took place in June, 1988, and brought together the five Maghreb countries in a summit which constituted a decisive turning point in the history of relations between the countries of the region.

This meeting gave the green light to the Maghreb march in various domains. It also set fixed dates to present the achievements of this work to the higher Maghreb committee. This took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood, frankness, and clarity. This committee reviewed and discussed what was achieved by the regional committees. Then it approved them as recommendations which were referred to the Marrakech summit which crowned these efforts with the leaders' declaration, in a historic statement, of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. A treaty was signed representing the legal framework and manifesting the bodies, goals, and institutions of this establishment.

Perhaps more important than all this is the constructive spirit which prevailed over the summit works and the honest determination which the Maghreb leaders expressed over the achievement of this great gain. If the Marrakech summit represents the climax of logical and sound progress, it is, at the same time, the starting point of implementation on the realistic grounds of something we all committed ourselves to with great enthusiasm and good intentions.

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM] Is there any use in establishing a grouping in the Arab Maghreb, another in the east, and yet a third in the Gulf?

[Escheikh] The establishment of the AMU came contemporaneously with the establishment of the Arab Economic Council. Those were good tidings for us and we welcomed the intentions and aims it was established on which, in their essence, do not differ from the goals on which the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the AMU were founded.

We consider these steps as natural stations down the path of joint Arab action and the measured and sober unity march.

The demands of the age impose upon us now to group together within geographical units joined by mutual interests and futuristic goals to fend off the challenges of progress and prepare to deal with other blocs on an equal footing to exchange opportunities and interests. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

U.S. Mideast Policy Termed 'Arrogant,' 'Pushy'

JN1303183689 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Mar 89, pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "America Swimming Against-the-Tide"]

[Text] What does the United States want exactly? The Europeans tell the Americans: We are convinced that there is an opportunity to establish peace and that Palestinian moderation should be encouraged. The Americans search in their notebooks for new definitions of old topics to disrupt the peace process, thwart the Europeans' efforts, and diminish their role in the Middle East crisis.

William Waldegrave, British Foreign Office minister of state, affirmed the importance of holding an international conference with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations. He said that it goes against human nature that a conference be held under the auspices of two sides—that is the United States and the Soviet Union alone. He affirmed that Israel's policy on the peace process cannot continue, just as its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza cannot go on.

Despite these clear statements, the United States continues to be arrogant and pushy. It talks of Palestinian terrorism and their increasing strength in southern Lebanon, as though it were attempting to give Israel an excuse to continue its policy of aggression and escalate its oppressive measures against the Palestinians and Lebanese alike inside the security zone and outside it.

There are now new trends in the U.S. Administration to put pressure on Egypt and confuse it politically and economically as a punishment for its stands supportive of the Palestine question and a revenge for its openness toward its brothers. The symptoms of U.S. strangling have become clear through freezing the annual aid scheduled for Egypt with the excuse that there are measures Egypt has to take to be eligible for this aid.

The strange thing about the United States is that it behaves as though it is the only power in the world and the only one with influence. It wants to expand its economic and political influence in Asia, Africa, and the Arab world without practically participating in helping these countries to overcome the difficulties they are facing or play an important and vital role in finding solutions for the persisting conflicts in these regions.

When the United States behaves in this belligerent and intentionally inactive way, it proceeds from personal accounts and from the complex of feeling that it is the strongest power which can take everything without changing or giving anything in return. Therefore, we are not surprised at all at the U.S. stand toward Egypt and its national leadership. There are attempts now to put pressure on Egypt to decrease its interest in the Palestine question and to weaken its organic bond with its Arab brothers.

Of course, we cannot forget Egypt's role, its people's sacrifices, and its leadership's political efforts to advance the peace process in the Middle East.

Egypt takes action in accordance with strategic and defined principles to realize the lofty pan-Arab goals for the nation. Therefore, we should not leave Egypt alone. The pan-Arab duty dictates that the Arab Cooperation Council and Gulf Cooperation Council countries should support Egypt and provide it with all the necessary aid which could enable it to confront all forms of pressure and attempts at influence and political blackmail through what is being reported today in U.S. papers about the existence of Egyptian factories producing chemical weapons and gases.

It has been proven now that the United States is looking for another scapegoat to cover up for the Israeli crimes in the occupied territories. It has rummaged through its intelligence files to find something that could help it to ravage the Arab image and improve the Israeli one. Its inner conscience led it to the old record of the chemical weapon in Egypt after Libya.

This level of American policies will leave the United States without a single Arab friend and will strip the Bush administration of all credibility.

The important thing is that we stand with Egypt and support its pan-Arab line because the experience of the past 10 years has proven that Egypt's remoteness from its Arab family has harmed and hurt this family. It has left it prone to fatal disputes, differences, and conflicts.

Shaykh Sabah Proposes Postponing Lebanon Meeting

LD1103150489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0959 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir said Saturday that he proposed to the other members of the six-man good offices committee on Lebanon that the committee's next meeting scheduled for March 17 in Kuwait be postponed to a later date. Shaykh Sabah indicated that a meeting for the Lebanon committee would be held on the sidelines of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Riyadh on Monday.

Replying to a KUNA question on whether Kuwait is still a candidate to host the meetings, the deputy premier and foreign minister said that Kuwait had welcomed proposal by the committee's members that Kuwait be the host country, affirming that Kuwait would also support any other choice that members see fit.

In conclusion, he expressed hope that peace would reign over the Lebanese arena to enable the committee to carry out its task, urging the Lebanese parties to listen to the voice of reason and cooperate with the committee toward a solution to their country's dilemma.

Officials Denounce 'Satanic Verses,' Call For Ban

JN1303155589 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 12 Mar 89 p 4

[Text] A number of officials and thinkers in Kuwait have strongly denounced the author of The Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie, describing the book as a clear attempt to distort the image of Islam and stressing that the book could in no way be considered a work of literature, a local daily reported.

According to Undersecretary of Information 'Abd Al-'Aziz Ja'far, the book did not originate from its author but from forces standing behind him. Ja'far called for a unified Islamic stand against firms publishing the book. The author cannot be considered as a normal man, he said, but only as a madman motivated by the devil.

Ja'far added that the best way to respond to the book was to ignore it, as it has really been given a far greater importance than it deserves. The book should be banned and its true intentions unveiled, he said.

Assistant Undersecretary for Censorship, Press and Culture Hamad Al-Rumi described the book as disgusting and obscene. He said that because of this and as the book contains no reasonable material that can be discussed, there is no way to debate the book or its author. Al-Rumi described Kuwait's stand in banning the book and all other works published by its publisher as the appropriate response.

The book is totally involved in attacking Islam without the use of any scientific, logical or historical methodology, Al-Rumi said. He expressed wonder at how the book and its author have won over Western sympathies despite its direct and unquestionable offence to Islam, the Holy Quran and the Prophet (PBUH) [praise be upon him], but added that this shows the bad intentions of Western circles towards Islam and Muslims. Al-Rumi proposed that the issue be discussed at the level of the GCC information committees.

Meanwhile, Dr Shafiq Al-Ghabrah of Kuwait University said he wondered why this book in particular has been singled out for attack from among the countless books written in the West against Islam and Muslims. He said that attacking Islam and attempting to distort its image is nothing new. Other speakers reiterated that a well-planned but peaceful action should be taken to unveil the real intentions of the author and his motivation in attacking Islam.

PDRY

Energy Minister Returns From YAR Talks

EA0903141089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn in Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals, returned to Aden this afternoon after a brief visit to Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] during which he handed a message from brothers Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary-general of the YSP Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland. The message concerns unionist coordination between the two parts.

In a statement to ANA [ADEN NEWS AGENCY], Brother ibn Husaynun explained that his talks with President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih were important. He said he discussed with the YAR minister of petroleum and mineral resources Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhani, a number of questions on the progress of the work of the Yemeni Company for Petroleum and Mineral Resources and ways to hasten exploration implementation measures. He discussed with YAR officials the benefits accruing from the refining of crude oil extracted from Marib Governorate. These discussions were in the framework of cooperation and economic integration between the two parts of the homeland.

Qatar

Minister Receives Message from Iran's Velayati

JN0503134089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 5 Mar (WAKH)—Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a written message from 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs, dealing with relations between the two countries and ways to promote them. The message was conveyed by Iranian Ambassador to Qatar Mohammad Baqer Sakhai, who was received by the Qatari minister in Doha today.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Cables Afghan Mujahidin's Mojaddedi

LD1403214689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, custodian of the two holy mosques, sent a reply cable to his excellency Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the Islamic state of

Afghanistan, in reply to a cable he received from Mojaddedi when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognized Afghanistan's Islamic government. Here is the text of the cable from the custodian of the two holy mosques:

Your Excellency Brother President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the Islamic state of Afghanistan:

Peace and God's compassion and blessing be upon you. After receiving your cable expressing your brotherly and Islamic sentiments regarding the Saudi Government's recognition of the sister Islamic Afghanistan, it is a pleasure to express to you my sincere appreciation. I note the jihad of the fraternal Afghan people and their enormous sacrifices offered in the defense of their Islamic faith and affirm to you the keen interest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in everything beneficial to the fraternal Afghan people. We want to see stability, security and prosperity, God willing, in the shadow of the Islamic faith for which they have struggled and strived. I beg God, the exhalted and almighty, to crown your struggle with total victory and to guide you and your brothers toward the good of your country and nation. He is all hearing and responding.

[Signed] Your brother, Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz Al Saud

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Approves State Budget Law for 1989

JN0903093289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has approved Law No 8 for 1989 (?finalizing) the state's general budget for FY 1989. Following is the text of the law:

In the name of the people, after taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and Presidential Decree No 31 of 1974 which sets up and organizes the Ministry of Finance and defines its functions, as well as its amendments; after taking cognizance of Law No 6 of 1980 which fixes the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year; and after having been approved by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Consultative Council, we, the president of the Republic, have approved and issued the following law:

Article 1: Revenues of the state's general budget for FY 1989 are estimated at 16,041,700,000 Riyals in accordance with Table A.

Article 2: Expenditures of the state's general budget for FY 1989 are fixed at 20,789,078,000 Riyals in accordance with Table B.

Article 3: The net deficit in the state's general budget for FY 1989 is fixed at 4,747,398,000 riyals.

Article 4: The bases for implementing the state's general budget for FY 1989, accompanying this law, as well as the explanations mentioned in the budget's gazette are considered a complementary part of this law. All units of the state's administrative body should abide by the implementation of these provisions. All previous bases, laws, and decisions to the contrary will be canceled.

Article 5: The finance minister will issue the necessary instructions to implement this law within the limits of its provisions.

Article 6: This law shall be enacted as of 1 January 1989 and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 30 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 8 March 1989.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Approves Pension Fund Law

JN0903101089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The brother president leader and secretary general has approved Law No 11 for 1989 (?finalizing) the budget of the Pension Fund for FY 1989. Following is the text of the law:

In the name of the people, after taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and of Law No 4 of 1981 which establishes the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform; after taking cognizance of Law No 26 of 1982 which establishes the Civil Pension Fund as well as Law No 6 of 1980 which fixes the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year; and after having been approved by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Consultative Council, we, the president of the Republic, have approved and issued the following law:

Article 1: Appropriations of the expenditures of the Pension Fund for the Fiscal Year 1989 will be estimated at 782,472,000 Riyals. The Fund's revenues for FY 1989 will be estimated at the same sum estimated for its expenditures.

Article 2: The bases for implementing the budget of the public and mixed sectors for FY 1989 will apply to the budget of the Pension Fund. There should be abidance by the implementation of these bases in conformity with the Fund's work.

Article 3: The chairman of the Fund's board of directors will issue the necessary regulations organizing the implementation of this law within the limits of its provisions.

Article 4: This law shall be enacted as of 1 January 1989 and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 30 Rajab 1409, corresponding to 8 March 1989.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Approves Social Security Law

JN0903101589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The brother president leader and secretary general has approved Law No 12 of 1989 (?finalizing) the budget of the General Establishment for Social Security [GESS] for FY 1989. Following is the text of the law:

In the name of the people, after taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and of Law No 6 of 1980, which fixes the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year; after taking cognizance of Law No 17 of 1987, which establishes the GESS; and after having been approved by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Consultative Council, we, the president of the Republic, have approved and issued the following law:

Article 1: Appropriations of the GESS expenditures for FY 1989 will be estimated at 247,835,000 riyals. The GESS revenues for FY 1989 will be estimated at the same sum estimated for its expenditures.

Article 2: The bases for implementing the budget of the public and mixed sectors for FY 1989 will apply to the GESS budget. There should be abidance by the implementation of thse bases in conformity with the GESS work.

Article 3: The social affairs and labor minister will issue the necessary instructions organizing the implementation of this law within the limits of its provisions.

Article 4: This law shall be enacted as of 1 January 1989 and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 30 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 8 March 1989.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Approves Public, Mixed Sectors Law

JN0903173189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The brother president leader and secretary general has approved Law No 9 of 1989 (?finalizing) the budgets of the public and mixed sectors for FY 1989. Following is the text of the law:

In the name of the people, after taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and of Presidential Decree No 31 of 1974 which establishes and organizes the Ministry of Finance and defines its functions as well as its amendments; after taking cognizance of Law No 6 of 1980 which fixes the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year; and after having been approved by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Consultative Council, we, the president of the Republic, have approved and issued the following law:

Article 1: A. The total appropriations of the budgets of the public and mixed sectors for the allocations and revenues of FY 1989 are estimated at 24,988,044,000 Riyals in accordance with the general framework of the budgets of the two sectors accompanying this law.

B. The total appropriations of the public sector's budget for the allocations and revenues for FY 1989 are estimated at 18,491,304,000 Riyals in accordance with the general framework of the public sector's budget as well as Tables Nos 4, 6, 8, and 10 accompanying this law.

C. The total appropriations of the budgets of the mixed sector for the allocations and revenues for FY 1989 are estimated at 6,496,740,000 Riyals in accordance with the general framework of the budgets of the mixed sectors as well as Tables Nos 8,7,9, and 11 accompanying this law.

Article 2: A: The total surplus of the current activity of the two sectors for FY 1989 is estimated at 3,366,731,000 Riyals. The total government share of the total surplus is estimated at 2,401,638,000 Riyals.

B. The surplus in the current activity of the public sector for FY 1989 is estimated at 2,966,161,000 Riyals. The government share of this surplus is estimated at 2,349,585,000 Riyals in accordance with Table No 13 accompanying this law. C. The surplus in the current activity of the mixed sector for 1989 is estimated at 400,570,000 Riyals. The government share of this surplus is estimated at 52,053,000 Riyals in accordance with Table No 14 accompanying this law.

Article 3: Each of the public sector's units should (calculate) the government's share of the surplus current activity by 25 percent of the (?report) on the 1st day of the months of April, July, and October. The remainder should be repaid in the first 3 months of the following year in accordance with the calculated loss and profit transactions and the general budget. Should the final accounts be delayed beyond 3 months, the establishment should repay the fourth installment of the government share according to the estimations of the share in its approved budget. Settlement should be made in light of the outcome of the current transactions account and the general budget. All installments will be repaid at the dates fixed for the Yemeni Central Bank—the general government account.

Article 4: The deficit in the subsidized current activity of the public sector's services establishments for FY 1989 is estimated at 337,576,000 Riyals in accordance with Table No 12 accompanying this law.

Article 5: The government's contribution to the public sector for the fiscal year 1989 is estimated at 954,036,000 Riyals in accordance with Table 12 accompanying this law.

Article 6: The other capital contributions of the public and mixed sectors for FY 1989 are estimated at 153,404,000 Riyals in the public sector and 5,320,000 Riyals in the mixed sector in accordance with Table 15 accompanying this law.

Article 7: The Ministry of Finance will settle the subsidized current deficit as well as the capital contributions of the public sector's units according to the actual needs of each party within the limits of the credits estimated for these parties and in accordance with the provisions of the bases of implementing the budgets of the public and mixed sectors.

Article 8: All establishments of the public and mixed sectors should abide by the credits fixed for them for FY 1989 in accordance with this law and the accompanying tables. All of these establishments are banned from exceeding these credits under all circumstances, taking into consideration the provisions of Article 21 on the bases of implementing the budgets of the public and mixed sectors accompanying this law.

Article 9: The bases of implementing the budgets of the public and mixed sectors accompanying this law as well as the general and special (?explanations) mentioned in their budgets are considered a complementary part of this law. Establishments of the public and mixed sectors should abide by the implementation of their provisions. The previous bases, laws, and decisions which conflict with these provisions will be canceled.

Article 10: This law shall be enacted as of 1 January 1989 and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued in the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 30 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 8 March 1989.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Cabinet Approves Bulgarian, Somali Committees

JN0803151089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The cabinet held its periodic meeting at 0900 today under Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member. [passage omitted]

On conclusion of its meeting, the cabinet heard three reports. The first was submitted by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member, on his participation in the yearly meeting of the Islamic Bank governors, which was recently held in Rabat, Morocco. The report also touched on Al-'Attar's visit, together with his accompanying delegation, to Bulgaria and his participation in the YAR-Bulgarian Joint Committee's first meeting, which was held in the Bulgarian capital in late February and early March.

The second report was submitted by brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, on his participation at the head of our country's delegation in the 46th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, held in Rabat in late February. The third report was submitted by Brother Dr Nasir al-'Awlaqi, minister of agriculture and fisheries, on his visit to Somalia and his participation in the proceedings of the second session of the YAR-Somali committee, held in Mogadishu between 22-26 February.

The Cabinet approved the minutes of the YAR-Somali joint committee session and the agreement to set up a joint committee between our country and the government of Bulgaria, which it referred to complete constitutional procedures.

President Salih Meets With PDRY Deputy Premier

JN0803132589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the Generel People's Congress, received at his office today Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals in the southern part of the homeland. He conveyed to the brother leader and president a message from his brothers, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Supreme People's Congress Presidium in the southern part of the homeland. The message deals with issues related to unity action between the two parts.

The meeting was attended by Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member; and Brother Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, petroleum and mineral wealth minister.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0803202489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, petroleum and mineral wealths minister, and Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the YSP Central Committee

and deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals in the southern part of the homeland, met in Sanaa today. They discussed the steps taken to activate the Yemeni company for exploitation of petroleum and minerals. They also heard a detailed report from Brother (Rashid al-Kas), chairman of the board of directors of the Joint Yemeni Company for Investment, on the steps and the timetable for the exploration in order to begin exploration activities in the region.

Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, Central Committee member and deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals in the southern part of the homeland, and his delegation, departed Sanaa today following a short visit during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland.

In a statement to SABA', brother Ibn Husaynun stated that during the visit, a number of important and vital projects of interest to the Yemeni people in both parts were discussed. He pointed out that he discussed with the brother minister of petroleum and mineral wealths joint coordination and adopting swift practical steps to execute the works of the joint petroleum project.

Concluding his statement, he expressed satisfaction with the brotherly hospitality and cordial welcome he and his delegation received. He also expressed satisfaction with the brotherly and friendly discussion with the brother officials—distinguished by the spirit of responsibility.

Ibn Husaynun was seen off by Brother Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, petroleum and mineral wealths minister; Brother Hamid al-'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Office; and a number of officials.

Ministry Informs UN of Cease-Fire Incident

JN1403194889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of a cease-fire violation by the Iranians. Iranian troops opened fire on Iraqi forces on the cease-fire line last night.

The ministry asked the UN secretary general to consider this notification an official Security Council document.

President Receives Cypriot President's Message

JN0903184989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou. The message deals with current bilateral relations and the desire to promote them.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received the message during a meeting here today with Takis Nemitsas, Cypriot commerce and industry minister, who is visiting Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the Cypriot minister to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Cypriot president and Iraq's pride in its relations with Cyprus and its desire to promote them in every field.

The first deputy prime minister touched on Iraq's policy and principled position rejecting interference in any country's domestic affairs and respecting all states' sovereignty. He said that the Iraqis have triumphed over Iranian aggression, which interfered in Iraq's domestic affairs. He added that Iraq will further promote its ties with friendly states and institutions in the future and that it will cooperate with foreign institutions that continued their activities during the war. He pointed out that Iraq will see comprehensive development in harmony with the progress and prosperity of its economy.

The Cypriot minister praised the Iraqi leadership, and stressed that Iraq's political and economic weight in Arab and international affairs will grow after the war.

During the meeting, relations of cooperation in the trade and economic fields and means of promoting them were discussed. They also stressed the joint desire to create new fields in which to expand the good existing relations.

President Receives Pakistani Commerce Minister

JN1503101689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, Pakistani commerce and local government minister, here today.

During the meeting, Hayat conveyed a message to the president from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on relations between the two friendly countries and means of promoting them in all fields.

The Pakistani ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Ramadan Leaves for Sanaa With Message

JN1203120589 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar.12, INA—Personal Envoy of President Saddam Husayn to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier today left Baghdad for Sanaa.

In an airport statement to INA, Mr. Ramadan said he was carrying a message from President Husayn to President Salih centered on bilateral relations, Arab conditions and upgrading Arab cooperation among sisterly Arab states in all fields.

Mr. Ramadan said that he would discuss with Mr. 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Yemeni prime minister requirements of the present and forthcoming stages for realizing objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council and formulas for their implementation in the economic field preliminary to submitting them to the meetings of the Council's ministerial body.

Mr. Ramadan stressed that joint efforts among member states of the Arab Cooperation Council are going on for the practical realization of the Council's objectives in all fields of cooperation in a way conforming with the desire of the Council's leaders to adopt urgent and tangible steps by officials of the Council member states.

The personal envoy expressed confidence that the current and forthcoming stages would witness growth and progress in the Arab arena and that the ACC would be an additional impetus to strengthen joint Arab action.

Mr. Ramadan concluded that he would brief Yemeni officials on the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and Iraq's commitment to its legitimate rights and principled position on restoring real and comprehensive peace according to resolution 598.

Oil Minister Leaves for YAR, PDRY 12 Mar

JN1203162689 Baghdad INA in English 1555 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 12, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left here today heading a delegation on a several-day visit for the Yemen Arab Republic and PDRY.

In a statement to INA, Mr 'Abd al-Rahim said he would hold talks with officials in the two countries on Iraq's readiness to develop the oil industries in the two Yemeni republics and supply them with technical aid.

Iraq is already processing crude oil in the Aden refinery and providing South Yemeni technicians with the know-how in this respect.

Ramadan Meets With PRC's Tian Jiyun 13 Mar

JN1303164289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, received today Tian Jiyun, PRC vice premier, and his delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with their development in all fields. They also stressed their common desire to find new fields for cooperation to enhance the relations of friendship between the two countries. Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the economic situation in Iraq and its future horizons. He asserted that a comprehensive economic program will be carried out in the present and coming phases. This program includes reconstructing what had been destroyed by the war and establishing the foundations of large-scale development. The first deputy prime minister also reviewed Iraq's peaceful policy since the beginning of war as well as its positive positions on the international resolutions. Iran has rejected all these resolutions, he said.

The PRC vice premier voiced his admiration for development in Iraq. He stressed his country's interest in maintaining cooperation with Iraq in all fields, noting the readiness of Chinese corporations to participate in Iraqi development projects. Tian Jiyun stated the Chinese leadership's desire to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and its continued efforts in this regard. He lauded Iraq's principles and its genuine efforts to make a lasting and comprehensive peace with Iran. The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Beijing and the Chinese ambassador in Baghdad.

PRC Vice Premier Departs

JN1403205489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—PRC Vice Premier Tian Jiyun and his delegation left Baghdad for Kuwait this evening after a 4-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the PRC official conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from PRC President Yang Shangkun on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all fields. He also held talks with Iraqi officials on relations of cooperation and Arab and international issues of common concern.

Kuwaiti Electricity Minister Pays 2-Day Visit

JN1203163089 Baghdad INA in English 1558 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 12, INA—Kuwaiti minister of electricity and water, Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah, arrived here today heading a technical delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a press statement to INA, the Kuwaiti official said his current visit would aim at completing talks previously held between Iraq and Kuwait to supply Kuwait with the Iraqi water and agree where and when the influx flows into Kuwait.

He added he would also discuss with Iraqi officials means of consolidating bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Meets With 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN1303175289 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 13, INA—Deputy Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim met today with the Kuwaiti minister of electricity and water, Mr Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah.

During the meeting, the Kuwaiti minister conveyed to Mr Ibrahim greetings of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, and his wishes for Iraq's further progress and prosperity.

Mr Ibrahim asked the Kuwaiti minister to convey his greetings to Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and his appreciation and praise for Kuwait's attitudes in support of Iraq. He also praised the brotherly relations between the two countries.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed Kuwait's wish to promote cooperation relations between the two brotherly countries.

Bilateral relations and means of developing cooperation between the two countries in the light of talks which were conducted during the Kuwaiti crown prince's visit recently to Baghdad were reviewed especially concerning Iraq's supplying Kuwait with water and to carry out the electricity linking between the two brotherly countries.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Local Government Mr 'Adnan Dawud Salman and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Meets With Industry Minister

JN1303141989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, industry and military industrialization minister, met today with Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah, electricity and water minister of fraternal Kuwait, and his delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the steps which will be taken to accomplish an electric linkage project to exchange 150 megawatts of energy between Iraq and Kuwait. The two countries agreed to hold a meeting of technicians in the next few weeks to prepare a detailed study on the electric linkage project. Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah described this project as a step toward wider cooperation in the industrial field between Iraq and Kuwait. The meeting was attended by officials from the industry and local government ministries.

Hold Talks With Ramadan

JN1403111889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Dr Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah, Kuwaiti minister of electricity and water, and his delegation.

The RCC member and first deputy prime minister reiterated the pride of President Saddam Husyan and the Iraqi people in the principled positions of Kuwait—amir, government, and people—and its support for Iraq while defending its sovereignty and the Arab nation. He also reiterated Iraq's satisfaction with its distinguished relations with fraternal Kuwait. He affirmed the importance of expanding bilateral relations in development, trade, economic, political, media, vocational, and social fields. [passage omitted]

Dr Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah cited Kuwait's satisfaction with its fraternal relations with Iraq. He noted Kuwait's determination to find numerous new fields in which to bolster bilateral relations to meet the hopes and aspirations of the two fraternal peoples. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1403153389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—Dr Humud 'Abdallah al-Raqabah, Kuwaiti minister of electricity and water, left Baghdad today with his delegation after a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a departure statement to INA, he said the visit was successful and fruitful and achieved its goal of establishing growing cooperation between the two countries on a fraternal foundation. During the visit, he said, it was agreed that Iraq would provide Kuwait with 350 million gallons of drinking water and 200 million gallons of water for agricultural purposes daily.

It was agreed, he added, that Kuwait would be provided with 150 megawatts of Iraqi electricity daily. Based on these good results, he went on to say, technical committees will begin work in both Kuwait and Iraq to follow through on what was agreed.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed his happiness at visiting Iraq. He said: We are very pleased with our visit to Iraq, our meetings with Iraqi officials, and with the outcome of the visit, which reflected the mutual fraternal spirit between the two countries.

Saudi Role in Basra Reconstruction Announced

JN1303110889 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 13, INA—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has responded to an Iraqi request for a Saudi contribution of construction supplies and materials within the frame of a national drive for reconstructing the southern Iraqi port city of Basra.

An official statement published here today said the Saudi brethren informed Iraqi competent quarters two days ago that King Fahd ordered meeting the Iraqi demand with all its details and quantities.

Earlier, President Saddam Husayn briefed the Saudi ambassador to Iraq on the difficulties facing the implementation of a large-scale plan for the reconstruction of Basra. This city, the major Iraqi port was exposed to heavy human and material damages as a result of a continued Iranian artillery shelling throughout the years of the Iraq-Iran war.

President Husayn also informed the Saudi ambassador that the difficulty facing the reconstruction plan comes from the incapability of the Iraqi market in providing several materials needed in the reconstruction like iron, water and drainage pipes and glass used for the houses damaged during the shelling.

The president tabled the possibility of Saudi assistance in implementing the reconstruction plan.

Last month, President Husayn inaugurated the drive for the reconstruction of Basra and for this purpose all necessary machinery, equipment and supplies were withdrawn from all governorates of Iraq to Basra.

The city of Basra is the third biggest city of Iraq and the country's vital and major port in addition to being an industrial center where a giant petrochemical plant and a factory for fertilizers exist.

President Chairs Cabinet, RCC, Party Meeting

JN1403124489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that continuing interference in the domestic affairs of other countries and the use of force in relations among Arab states threatens to put the Arab nation further from the place, field, and way that can achieve its security, stability, and progress.

Chairing a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council, the regional command [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Council of Ministers here today, the president added that the use of force and armies against Arabs would weaken them and hinders fraternal interaction. He said that it is unwise to continue using force because it distorts the ties that link all Arabs together.

The joint meeting was devoted to two draft agreements on relations among the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. The first deals with the issue of noninterference in domestic affairs and the nonuse of armies, and the second with coordinating security and intelligence activities among the ACC member states.

RCC Decree on Sale of State Land to Employees

JN0403212689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Decree issued by the Revolution Command Council—date not given]

[Text] 1. A discount of 20 percent shall be deducted from the price of state-owned housing land, which has been, or will be sold, to the families of martyrs, volunteer soldiers, and government employees.

2. The initial payment shall be 5 percent of the selling price, and the balance shall be repaid in equal yearly installments over 20 years from the selling date. The calculation of the repayments shall be made according to this.

3. Employees who bought housing land according to Presidency Office Letter No 17051 of 2 June 1985 shall be exempted from the provision in Paragraph 1 of this decree.

4. The amounts paid by buyers before the issuance of this decree shall not be repayed.

5. The laws and resolutions connected to the ownership of state houses and housing units and lands shall apply to those who benefit from this decree in a manner that does not contradict its provisions.

6. Provisions of this decree do not apply to those who sold what was sold to them of the properties mentioned in Paragraph 1.

7. This decree shall be implemented from the day of its issuance, and its clauses are in effect from 17 July 1968 [date as heard].

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Presidency Office letter No 17051 of 2 June 1985 included a discount of 40 percent of the value of houses and housing units and lands that were bought by the employees according to that letter.

Kurdistan Party Begins 12th Congress 13 Mar

JN1403115289 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Irbil, North Iraq, Mar. 14, INA—The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party yesterday started its 12th national congress in the governerate of Irbil, North Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy secretary of the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party to inaugurate the congress.

Addressing the opening session, Mr. Ibrahim said Iraqi Kurds enjoyed significant achievements following the enactment of the autonomy rule law which settled the Kurdish issue.

Mr. Ibrahim said that declaration of 11th March and the peaceful settlement of the Kurdish issue enbodied the democratic and national tasks for building the unified and prosperous Iraq. He added that deepening the democratic course and promoting it on the basis of building prosperous Iraq is the means for continuing the march of progress in Iraq and the joint Arab effort for countering Zionist and imperialist challanges.

The conference was also addressed by the secretary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party who stressed [the] necessity of consolidating national unity and preserving the great accomplishment realised for the Kurdish people.

Arens Rejects Baker Remarks on Talks With PLO

TA1503174789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who is currently visiting the United States, rejected Secretary of State James Baker's assertion that if Israel does not succeed in bringing about practical negotiations with the Palestinians in the territories, it may have to talk to the PLO. Minister Arens told our correspondent in Washington Nisim Mish'al that Baker's idea would not further the peace process. Arens said he would be surprised if the United States decided to act contrary to Israel's positions on the issue. Arens added that there is an atmosphere of frustration in the United States and in Israel over the lack of progress toward peace in the Middle East. The foreign minister pointed out that Prime Minister Shamir will bring new proposals on the peace process when he visits Washington next month. [passage omitted]

Mitzna' Leaves for U.S. Lecture Tour

TA0503174289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, left for a lecture series in the United States. Gen Mitzna' is the guest of the Soldiers' Welfare Association in the United States.

Tabah Handed Over to Egypt; Al-Masiri Comments

TA1503114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Tabah, the tiny border enclave south of Elat, which was the focus of a long drawn-out dispute between Israel and Egypt, today was handed over to Egyptian sovereignty in the wake of a decision by an international arbitration tribunal last year. The Israeli flag came down last night. The Egyptian flag was raised at noon today. [passage omitted]

Both Egyptian and Israeli officials spoke of new times to come in relations. Lea Zinder spoke to the Egyptian Consul Ahmad al-Masiri:

[Begin recording] [Al-Masiri] I think I feel great. Tabah is back now an Egyptian territory. That proves that the diplomacy of peace proved that everything worked fine.

[Zinder] Do you think that the handing back of Tabah will make a difference to what is called the cold peace between Israel and Egypt?

[Al-Masiri] Well, I mean, I think that a new era is going to be started now between the two countries after Tabah. [end recording]

Mubarak on Possible Tabah Visit

TA1503184889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Bold passages in English]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has announced that he will visit Tabah in the near future. Mubarak added that he may invite King Husayn of Jordan and other personalities to visit. Mubarak said that peace justifies any sacrifice and that it is important to be willing to make additional sacrifices to achieve it. President Mubarak is visiting the FRG. Here is a report on an exclusive interview he gave our Bonn correspondent Yig'al Rom:

[Begin recording] [Rom] I asked President Mubarak if he intends to visit Tabah. His answer was yes, why not?

[Mubarak] **Why not? Yes, I am going to visit Tabah for sure.**

[Rom] **Would you invite King Husayn to visit you?**

[Mubarak] **That is a very delicate question. King Husayn is invited at any time, but if I invite King Husayn, also I am going to invite so many others. We are just meeting as Egyptians.**

[Rom] I asked President Mubarak if he would invite Husayn. Mubarak called this a delicate question, saying that the king is always a welcome guest. Mubarak said that if he would invite Husayn, he would invite other personages as well. Mubarak said that on this matter he would behave in the Egyptian tradition. I asked President Mubarak if he had any message for the Israeli people on the day marking the return of Tabah to Egyptian sovereignty.

[Mubarak] **Peace and peace. It's so important for human beings, so important to the Israelis, and it's so important to the Arabs and all human beings all over the earth. It's worth whatever concessions. So we should be much more (?flexible) with each other to reach a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace forever. Let us pick up the pieces and try everything for the people. This is our concern and our mission in life.** [end recording]

'No Reason' To Intervene in Egyptian CW Issue

TA1303110189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry yesterday decided to strike a low profile concerning reports of Egyptian chemical weapon production and for the time being will maintain contacts on the matter only with Washington, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Ministry officials said yesterday that the display by Jerusalem of any special interest in the alleged chemical weapons plant at Abu Za'bal is likely to put Cairo on the defensive, and will prove to be counterproductive.

"The Americans are adequately involved in this matter, and there's no reason for us to intervene. It's a delicate situation," a senior official said last night.

Washington will be asked to keep Jerusalem informed about its findings concerning the Abu Za'bal plant and about the U.S.-Swiss-Egyptian talks on the issue.

Foreign Minsitry spokesman Alon Li'el said yesterday that "Israel is concerned about continued production of chemical weapons in the world and particularly in the Middle East. Israel made it clear during the Paris Conference several weeks ago that it strongly supports concrete measures limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

Li'el refused to address specifically the reports about the Egyptian plant. He denied local manufacture of chemical weapons, saying: "Israel does not manufacture chemical weapons. We signed the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and we fully respect it."

The unfinished chemical plant at Abu Za'bal would not be the first in Egypt capable of producing the poison gas, Israeli experts said last night. The Egyptians had been working together with Iraq for years on producing and stockpiling chemical weapons, reliable sources said.

According to the experts, chemical weapons are "standard issue" in the Egyptian army, and the Egyptians have acquired the potential to fit chemical warheads to surface-to-surface missiles and to aircraft bombs. [passage omitted]

2 Palestinians Attempt Attack on IDF Near Rafah

TA1503144089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Two Palestinian terrorists aged 15 and 16 from the Canada refugee camp on the Egyptian side of Rafah attempted to break into an Israel Defense Forces [IDF] camp on the border point near Rafah. The terrorists threw grenades and tried to attack IDF soldiers. The soldiers captured the squad. The terrorists sustained light to serious injuries, while our troops suffered no casualties. In the investigation the terrorists said that they had been sent by the Islamic Jihad and Fatah, and had obtained Yasir 'Arafat's approval. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv spoke with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, at the site of the incident on the Israeli-Egyptian border:

[Begin Mordekhay recording] An explosion was heard near the army camp at approximately 0130. Our forces spread out immediately. Contact was made with the squad shortly thereafter, and following a short burst of fire from one of our soldiers, the terrorists surrendered. [end recording]

Sources in the Egyptian Defense Ministry have reported that Israel requested that the Egyptian authorities arrest a man who had infiltrated into Israel today with the two terrorists. The sources added that Israel had complained that three people had crossed the border at Rafah. The third man apparently managed to return to Egypt. This was reported by REUTER.

Mordekhay on Attack

TA1503170289 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, by Gid'on Reicher—live]

[Excerpts] [Reicher] Let us first deal with the fact that terrorists tried to infiltrate into Israel Defense Forces [IDF] camps along the Egyptian border, but were captured. Good afternoon, Gen Mordekhay.

[Mordekhay] Good evening.

[Reicher] I want to convey our gratitude to you for coming here on such a busy day. First of all, how was the squad spotted?

[Mordekhay] Last night at around midnight, a two-member terrorist squad penetrated Israel via the Egyptian border. The squad's mission was to attack an IDF outpost, installation, patrol, or anything else that came its way. After midnight, to be more precise at around 0130, it came close to one of our installations several hundred meters from the Egyptian border. It managed to hurl a grenade, but the IDF unit instantly began an attack, establishing contact with the squad during searches. The unit opened fire. Shots fired from close range wounded the two terrorists. They were captured. Our forces suffered no casualties. The squad itself was trained and dispatched by the Islamic Jihad. According to the terrorists' testimony, its mission was apparently known to Abu 'Ammar, also known as 'Arafat. The squad members were properly equipped with two submachine guns, nine magazines, and six grenades. It was determined to kill people and, if possible, also take hostages.

[Reicher] Did the Egyptians help us by virtually sealing the border?

[Mordekhay] The Egyptians have all along made substantial efforts to seal the border and prevent squads from penetrating into Israeli territory. To the best of my knowledge, they are even trying to foil attempts to organize terrorist squads inside Egypt. This time the

squad organized in the Canada refugee camp on the Egyptian side of Rafah and departed for Israel from somewhere nearby. I presume that this escaped the Egyptians' knowledge. We witnessed this morning how they showed cooperation in the efforts to capture those who assisted the squad. I am convinced that like us, the Egyptians will continue to honor the agreements and make sure that this peaceful border will continue to be a border of peace and security. I would also like to relay a warning to the terrorists and tell them that their attempts to strike at us, whether from the north or from the south, will be foiled by our forces, as was the case with this squad. [passage omitted]

[Reicher] I want to ask you about the fact that the Border Police are now replacing the army. Some people maintain that the army consists of reservists who come for short periods of time. These are older men, who are more hesitant and often are not thrilled at the prospects of pulling the trigger. The border policemen, on the other hand, are seen as tough and an object of fear by the locals. Would you subscribe to this definition?

[Mordekhay] The IDF has been and remains responsible for the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Border Police units are among the forces deployed in the Strip. Until recently, the Border Police mainly provided a reserve force as well as professionals entrusted with dealing with certain specific issues. Within the framework of supplementary deployment and reorganization in the Gaza Strip, I decided to alter the present array and make certain Border Police units responsible for certain areas. For example, one Border Police headquarters assumed responsibility for Gaza city. Another command is in charge of the refugee camps in the center of the Strip. The border policemen are definitely professionals and unique.

[Reicher] Are they not more inhibiting than the IDF?

[Mordekhay] They are more inhibiting by virtue of being stationed there more permanently. Another contributing factor is their close acquaintance with the local Arab mentality and their proficiency in Arabic. Nonetheless, to the extent that IDF soldiers deal with quelling the uprising, they have likewise shown determination, perseverance, knowledge, and the ability to contend with the situation—be they standing army soldiers or reservists.

Let me take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for all the forces—standing army units and reservists—for confronting a serious problem and, in the final analysis, controlling it.

[Reicher] Another unavoidable question today has to do with our southern border, which now runs very close to Elat. Could this possibly create an opening for infiltrations? Perhaps, as the commander of the Southern Command, you ought to redeploy the army along our southern border.

[Mordekhay] My assumption is that our southern border, including its southernmost corner, will be one of peace. We have fulfilled our share of the bargain in accordance with the agreements that had been signed, redeploying our units in the necessary places. We will continue to maintain the kind of activity that is warranted in order, on the one hand, to convey a feeling of safety; and on the other, to observe all the agreements and guarantee quiet along every inch of the southern border.

[Reicher] So you are not worried by the fact that...

[Mordekhay, interrupting] I am not too worried. Like my subordinates, I am always on the alert, prepared for any eventuality. Whenever something arises, we will know how to deal with it and be able to do so, as exemplified last night. [passage omitted]

Rabin Disparages 'Arafat Offer To Visit Jerusalem

PM1503152689 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Mar 89 p 6

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Stephane Marchand—date, place not given]

[Text] [Marchand] Yasir 'Arafat says that he is prepared to come to Jerusalem to talk peace.

[Rabin] 'Arafat talks a great deal. There are more important things than his media antics.

[Marchand] The PLO is proposing a cease-fire in southern Lebanon. Are you receptive to that proposal?

[Rabin] Those are words. I am only interested in deeds.

[Marchand] According to the American press, the Bush administration is proposing the release of Palestinian prisoners and the reopening of schools in exchange for an end to Palestinian violence, infiltration through southern Lebanon, and the distribution of pamphlets calling for uprising. What do you think of that?

[Rabin] If there was no longer any violence in the territories, we would not need to step up our military activity or to place people in administrative detention. If those responsible for the disturbances stop the violence, why would we take action against something that had ended? The same is true in Lebanon: If there were no more attempts at infiltration, we would no longer be forced to take preventive measures.

[Marchand] Should Israel not take the first step?

[Rabin] I have a principle, payment on delivery. I do not take the PLO's pledges on ending terrorism seriously. There are attempts to infiltrate from Lebanon every week, sometimes more frequently. On Sunday evening,

three terrorists were killed near the border. We are witnessing a resurgence of violence both on the northern border and in the territories. You see, for me words have no value.

[Marchand] What is your plan for the occupied territories?

[Rabin] What we need is a process in phases. We must make peace on Israel's eastern border and find a reasonable solution to the Palestinian question. Only political negotiations can lead to that.

With which partners should we negotiate? Jordan and Egypt are not capable of carrying out this process alone. Fundamentally, therefore, agreement must be found between Israel, Palestinian representatives from the territories, and Jordan. As soon as peace has been established, elections could be held in a free and democratic way in the territories to ensure that representatives from the territories are elected by the inhabitants of the territories so that they can negotiate on the form of transitional period that will lead from the present situation to final peace. This transitional period will have to last 5 years, but in the 3d year negotiations would start on final status between Israel, Jordan, and the elected Palestinians, and these three sides would be on an equal footing.

We must create a new situation in this transitional period during which the Israeli settlements will remain and the Palestinians, for the first time in their history, will have self-government, aside from defense and foreign affairs.

This gradual process is the only possibility. Trying to move directly from war to peace would lead to an explosion, for instance on Jerusalem's final status.

I emphasize that our main partners will be the Palestinians in the territories, whatever their options and their political positions.

[Marchand] Even if they openly support the PLO?

[Rabin] At all events, they are already allowed to proclaim that in front of Israeli television cameras.

[Marchand] Do Europe and the United States have a role to play?

[Rabin] We share some fundamental options with the United States. They include opposition to a precondition—the PLO's precondition—which would stipulate in advance that the territories' final status must be that of an independent state. Although it is talking with the PLO, the United States is not following the Europeans in offering 'Arafat tangible success.

[Marchand] Will you meet with Palestinians?

[Rabin] They say to me in private: The uprising has restored our self-respect. We have forced 'Arafat to change his stated position. They attach importance to Palestinian unity, the past has taught them that divisions have brought them a series of disasters.

[Marchand] Are you trying to drive a wedge between the Palestinians in the territories and the PLO?

[Rabin] I see an ever widening gulf between the Palestinians here and those in Tunis who live in luxurious villas and five-star hotels. Those in the territories want to see a light at the end of the tunnel. 'Arafat can spend another 15 years in Tunis. The Palestinians here are more pragmatic.

It will take 6 months or 1 year, but they will realize that 'Arafat is incapable of giving them what they want. So, they will change their attitude. If they want to negotiate, that is fine. If not, we can withstand the intifadah.

[Marchand] The PLO says that the uprising will not stop.

[Rabin] By using violence, the Palestinians will obtain nothing but more suffering. Violence may win over public opinion in Europe and, to some extent, in the United States. It does not influence Israel's fundamental options. Moreover, we just have to reach agreement with the United States on my program. The ministers in the European troika (Spain, France, Greece) can then say whatever they wish. That has no importance.

[Marchand] As a Labor Party member, are you prepared to withdraw from part of the territories?

[Rabin] Yes. I have been saying that since 1968. Israel must be a democratic Jewish state. With the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, we would be a binational state. My party is prepared for a territorial compromise with Jordan in the form of a Jordanian-Palestinian state with a single government and one capital—Amman.

[Marchand] You are destroying many houses in the territories. Will that type of collective punishment not produce a generation that will be your worst enemy?

[Rabin] When I assess the means at my disposal, I start by asking myself whether they are legal under our law. They are. They do not violate international law either. Second, I consider the fact that they have led to a reduction in the throwing of Molotov cocktails.

The killing of an Israeli woman and her three children is an act which, in many countries, would lead to capital punishment. According to the Geneva convention, we have the right to use such a measure. But we have never resorted to it in our 40-year existence.

On U.S. Request for Concessions

TA1503155289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem merchants that all the Arab countries, excluding Egypt, are spending huge amounts of between $30 and $60 billion annually on military expenditures. He said Syria, Iraq, and Libya also have sophisticated chemical weapons. In Israel, 85 percent of the defense budget is invested in preparations to forestall the military threat.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that Minister Rabin told the Jerusalem Merchants' Club that yielding to violence in the territories is an invitation to increasing the danger of war.

Referring to the voices from the United States calling on Israel to make concessions to the inhabitants of the territories, Mr Rabin said it is not Israel that is initiating the deterioration in the situation. Whoever wants concessions from Israel must ask the inhabitants of the territories to stop the violence. Only today, the defense minister told his audience, a pamphlet calling for an escalation in violence was published. In the face of violence we will employ force, he said.

On Syrian Threat, Territories

TA1103100289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Defense Minister, the Inner Cabinet was briefed this week about the buildup of Arab armies. A statement attributed to Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, mentioned that Syria is headed for war. Is that definitely the case today? Is Syria planning and preparing for war with Israel?

[Rabin] Irrespective of the facts on which you based your question about Syria's policy, let me tell you in the clearest possible way: If the question is one of a military threat against the State of Israel, Syria, in view of its hostile policy toward us and its efforts to build up its army in order to attain strategic parity with Israel, is the foremost potential candidate for launching a hostile operation .

I believe that war can be avoided by Israeli preparedness and readiness—first and foremost in terms of intelligence—and, of course, through the alertness of Israel Defense Forces [IDF] on the Golan Heights. A war with Syria, one begun by them, need not be unavoidable. There is no doubt that at present Syria invests more resources than any other Arab neighboring country in building up its army. At the same time, however, one must bear in mind that as far as the international arena is concerned, the current dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States and their wish to defuse regional points of tension do not indicate to Syria, if it wishes to set out to war, that international circumstances are in its favor.

Moreover, Syria is isolated in the Arab world. There is not much chance of the more pragmatic bloc, pragmatic by the standards of the Arab world, at least—which consists of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and even 'Arafat's PLO—participating in a possible war initiated by Syria.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to turn to the question of the territories. It was reported over the weekend that the IDF intends to reduce its presence in the Gaza Strip in favor of Border Police personnel. Will this intention also be effected in Judaea and Samaria?

[Rabin] In anticipation of the new work year we would like to ease the burden on reservists. In other words, we would like soldiers to serve a maximum of 44 days on reserve duty, instead of 62. That is why the quantity of the troops is being changed to fit the circumstances. Both in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria, we are carrying out the wish to have permanent and regular IDF troops and fewer reservists serve in areas prone to tension. Over the past year the Border Police, with considerable assistance from the IDF, has increased the number of companies serving in the territories. In view of this reinforcement, the Border Police will be in charge of parts of Gaza and some refugee camps. Although this has not been publicized, the same process is taking place in Judaea and Samaria. We hope very much that a Border Police company will be deployed in Judaea and Samaria this week. It will be stationed in a town near the Green Line, which has been the focus of violent activities, such as throwing stones at Israeli vehicles and patrols, and will be in charge of security of one of the main traffic arteries crossing Samaria from west to east.

At the same time, regular army units serving for a long period of several months will also be stationed in possible centers of uprising activity.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you consider this so-called new policy a partial or initial response to the U.S. demand, on the eve of the first official meeting between the new U.S. Administration and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens at the beginning of next week, to improve the atmosphere in the territories in any way so as to promote talks between Jerusalem and Washington?

[Rabin] Look, we wanted and still want to have the uprising decrease, especially its element of violence. Our line of action, regardless of what the United States or other international elements want or do not want, is examined according to our own considerations only. Therefore, it is in no way connected to our actions, which are occasionally revised. Our action is aimed only at attaining our objective, which is to reduce the level of violence significantly until we attain calm.

[Ben-'Ami] Is that the reason for the meetings between heads of the Civil Administration in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza with prominent Palestinian public figures in the territories?

[Rabin] Dealing with the uprising calls for a comprehensive government policy, which I believe should include several elements: First, a reasonable program acceptable to the entire government for a solution or for the beginning of a primarily political process that must lead to a solution of the problem according to political objectives to be determined by the government so that we can plainly tell the Palestinian population: If you want a solution, it should be attained at the negotiating table.

The second element concerns the overall activity of the IDF, the Civil Administration, and other security branches against the various components of the uprising, primarily the violence. In this respect we must tell them: In the absence of willingness on your part to sit around the negotiating table, you should know that with stones and firebombs you will get nothing from Israel.

The third element involves coordinating Israel's comprehensive approach, primarily with the United States, in order to prevent the Tunis-based PLO from attaining any real achievements—and they have not yet attained any tangible achievement on the international political arena likely to bring a solution closer.

Fourth, we must tell the Israeli people: Gentlemen, we are dealing here with a life-and-death problem in terms of Israel's future. There are no magic formulas to solve the problem. What is required is perseverance and the willingness occasionally to endure painful experiences, such as sustaining casualties—and we have sustained casualties in all our confrontations with our enemies.

[Ben-'Ami] Let us examine the formulas you are proposing. Incidentally, I understand that one of them is your eponymous plan published not long ago. Is the process you mention compatible with the study released this week by the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies? The study suggests that the long-term solution at the end of such a process, 30 years from now, will be a Palestinian state.

[Rabin] I believe that my proposal is in the right direction. As part of the elements I mentioned earlier, if one wants to deal seriously with a political solution, there are three things that must be defined: Who is the partner with whom we must talk, in what framework do we talk to him, and what do we talk to him about? To the best of my judgment—and faithfully keeping with the Labor Party's position and the government's basic guidelines which object to the establishment of a Palestinian state and to negotiations with the PLO—our partner at present without whom there will no political process is a representation of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. They are the ones carrying out the struggle today, the ones confronting us, and it is with them that we must find a way to enter a dialogue and negotiations. The moment such a Palestinian partner steps forward Jordan will join in. A Jordanian option does not exist today if that means Jordan as a leading partner. Without a Palestinian partner, Jordan will not come into the picture.

As for what to talk about, there can be no sharp transition from the current situation to a permanent solution. The process must go through a time-limited interim period for negotiations on the permanent solution, actually in the spirit of the Camp David accords. I consider the framework as marginal, if the dialogue is to be face-to-face between Israel and representatives of the inhabitants of the territories which, as I proposed, would be elected from among them and by them in free elections and who would be political representatives rather than elected mayors.

I already see indications and signs that the approach I suggest is acceptable to a considerable number of prominent figures in the territories.

[Ben-'Ami] Correct me if I am wrong, but you have not received the same positive signals from the prime minister, who, before his departure for Washington, has not brought the matter up for discussion in the Inner Cabinet, not even as a Labor Party demand.

[Rabin] First of all, I did not propose that the plan named after me be brought up for discussion at this point.

[Ben-'Ami] Why not?

[Rabin] I would rather do so after the prime minister returns from his visit to the United States, because my purpose is to attain a broad national consensus and to arrive at a political solution without a confrontation between the Alignment and the Likud.

[Ben-'Ami] And what about the condition set forth in your plan, that the political process should start after there has been a pause in the uprising? Have those Palestinian figures also told you that they are willing to accept this condition?

[Rabin] In my opinion, if there is agreement to abide by the stages I propose, then calm will be attained anyway. I think that the inhabitants of the territories who bear the brunt of the struggle and the suffering want to see the light at the end of the tunnel. This light will be seen only as a result of face-to-face dialogue and negotiations with Israel around the negotiating table.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to go back to the issue of Syria. It is clear to us, as you admitted yourself, that a Jordanian option does not exist at the moment, that there is general consensus that we do not talk to the PLO, and that the process of including the Palestinians in the process is rather slow. If that is the case, is there actually no room to repeat the Israeli decision of the late seventies concerning Egypt, an experience which has proven itself, and abandon Jordan and the Palestinians in favor of a dialogue with Syria in order to attain a solution of the Middle East problem?

[Rabin] I think it would be a mistake to change the current trend of political effort and direct it toward Syria. Syria advocates the most extreme positions, and it has never been willing to discuss the entire Israeli-Syrian problem separate from the pan-Arab issues in the Israeli context. Any approach to Syria would be construed as a victory for the hardliners in the Arab world, and Syria would be seen as an element without which the political process cannot advance. Therefore, it would be a strategic and political error on the part of Israel to approach Syria at the moment. By the same token, if Syria were to change its positions—which I cannot really see happening in the near future—and were willing to go for a solution on a bilateral Israeli-Syrian basis, Israel must comply with it.

[Ben-'Ami] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, I thank you very much.

Knesset Delegation Goes to Budapest Conference

TA1003173989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The Knesset delegation to the interparliamentary conference on human rights left for Budapest this morning. The delegation includes Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky and Knesset Members Yehoshu'a Matza and 'Edna Solodar. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the conference will open Monday, and that members of parliaments will discuss the issue of human rights in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The members of the delegation will celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews of Budapest and will pray in the central synagogue.

Likud, Alignment Claim Run-Off Election Victory

TA1503123789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman and Dan Petreanu]

[Excerpts] "The Union of Local Authorities is in our hands," announced a triumphant David Magen, Likud's campaign head last night after learning that Likud had won in 11 of the 17 towns in which it had fought a run-off election.

Likud now claims to have control over 70 of the 148 local councils, more than any other party. It will be the first time it has ever headed the Union.

Magen said the secret of this success was that Likud treated the local elections seriously, mobilizing all the party leaders for the campaigns. "The Likud sees in tonight's elections a victory far beyond the sphere of the local council," he said. However, Labour's Secretary-General Mikha Harish said Labour had beaten Likud in eight of the 10 contests in which it confronted Likud, taking Beit Shemesh, Qiryat Eqron, Rehovot, Haozor and Qiryat Mal'akhi from Likud. It also took Ramat Hasharon and Carmi'el and Yehud. [passage omitted]

Likud won Nahariya and Ra'anana from Labour and in addition: Zefat, Shelomi, Ofaqim, Netivot, Hadera, Gane' Tikva, Hod Ha-sharon, Even Yehuda and Dimona.

In Even Yehuda, Likud candidate Ziva Ben-Dror became the first ever woman head of a local council.

Vice Premier Shim'on Peres said the results showed that "whoever eulogized the Labour party too early made a mistake because this round showed that the Labour Party has strongholds in development towns." [passage omitted]

More on Border Police Deployment in Gaza

TA1503160389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] As of today, the Border Police will be responsible for day-to-day security in Gaza. They will be in charge of maintaining order in the city of Gaza and the three refugee camps in the central sector of the Gaza Strip. Consequently, the Border Police units deployed in the area have been beefed up and special headquarters have been established in the area. The ultimate authority over the situation in the Strip nevertheless remains the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. The IDF will deploy and activate its units as warranted. Our correspondent Beni Liss joined some Border Police units today.

[Begin videorecording] [Liss] A masked individual is perched on the roof of the local school, supervising the construction of a barricade. He has amassed large blocks of stone on the rooftops. He and his comrades have set up an ambush and are waiting for an IDF patrol. Beginning today, however, he will face Border Police units.

Let us clarify one point: The IDF is not leaving Gaza or the refugee camps. The framework remains unchanged; it is only the deployment that will be different.

As of today, the Border Police will be in charge of larger zones, and their role in handling stone-throwing incidents and barricades will be more extensive.

IDF officers admit that the Border Police have a more professional manner in handling the local population. Joining a Border Police unit on its way to a barricade on Al-Wahda Street, we noticed how the men quickly took positions in the nearby alleys, climbed on the roofs, encircled the rioters from adjacent streets, and prevented the stone throwers from fleeing.

The women, screaming to high heaven, were promptly silenced by a tear gas grenade. While Gaza was quiet today, it takes only one incident with casualties or a rumor spread around town to rekindle the unrest.

The border policemen, who were deployed in Gaza even before the start of the uprising, employ different methods than IDF soldiers, who usually come for a tour of several weeks. We were told by IDF officers that the locals fear them because they act quickly and with determination.

It is hoped that the redeployment will block or largely curtail violence on the streets.

From the point of view of the Gazan, who will now see more border policemen, what does this signify?

[Unidentified Border Police officer] It means that on one hand he can be confident that a police force will operate properly as warranted by law. He will know that this force knows its job, is familiar with the Arab mentality and language, and will be stationed there for a long period of time. These forces will not be changed every 3 or 4 weeks, as is the case with every other reserve company serving here. [end recording]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

4 Wounded in Gaza Riots

TA1403204189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Four residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza were wounded by Israeli soldiers' gunfire when riots were dispersed this afternoon. The four were taken to hospitals in Gaza. No injuries were reported in other incidents in the Gaza Strip. The curfew remained in effect in only two Rafah neighborhoods.

More on 14, 15 Mar Events

TA1503122289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Mikhal Sela', and Andy Court]

[Text] The Civil Administration yesterday demolished 15 homes in the West Bank on the grounds that they were built without a permit, an administration spokesman said.

Nine homes were demolished in the Hebron area, and six in the Janin region, according to the spokesman. Palestinians said another five homes were destroyed in Halhul, and two at Bayt Immar.

On Monday, seven homes were demolished at Furaydis, near Bethlehem, and two at Bayta, south of Nabulus.

The Civil Administration has stepped up house demolitions in the territories during the uprising as part of a bureaucratic crackdown aimed at stifling attempts to organize civil disobedience. Demolitions have also been carried out in villages that have been centres of protest.

Few clashes were reported in the West Bank yesterday, apparently because of the inclement weather. A 21-year-old was reported wounded by a ricocheting bullet in Nabulus.

The Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm remained under curfew for the ninth day.

Meanwhile, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Shay Erez, is continuing meetings with prominent Palestinian figures in the territories, including leading nationalist activists and Islamic fundamentalists.

In clashes in Jabalyah yesterday, four people were shot and wounded by plastic bullets and two by metal bullets, including four-year-old 'Imar Sha'ban.

In Khan Yunus, troops tried to disperse a group of teenagers who destroyed a lookout-post evacuated by soldiers as part of the military redeployment in the region. In an ensuing clash that developed around a roadblock on the street below, one person was shot and slightly wounded, according to Palestinian sources. A similar incident occurred in the Shati' refugee camp two days ago, as the soldiers evacuated the three-story "Al-Shati' hotel."

One person was shot and slightly wounded in Dayr al-Balah which is still under curfew.

The 14th Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] newsletter was distributed yesterday in Gaza. It included commentaries and news summaries. The relationship between Hamas and the PLO, according to the pamphlet, is like that of a son to his father. Another item stated that, in reply to 'Arafat's question whether to recognize the state of Israel, a Saudi religious authority answered: "You should adopt Hamas's attitude. Do not give up any piece of land. Go on a *Jihad*." [word in italics as published]

Andy Court adds:

Students at the Fatat al-Lajiyah girls school in East Jerusalem threw stones yesterday morning at one of their most popular targets, the Bank Hapoalim branch on Al-Zahara street. They also blocked the road with stones and toppled trashbins. The police fired tear gas to disperse them. No one was injured or arrested, according to the police spokesman. The windows of the bank were not damaged, he said.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 15 March reports that "the curfew which had been clamped on Janin a few days ago was lifted this morning. A curfew remains in effect in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 15 March on a page 13 report by Oren Kohen, Edi Gal, Shim'on Elqabetz, Mikhal Qedem, and Yasmin Qeyni adds that "Arab sources reported that 34 people were wounded yesterday in violent demonstrations in Gaza. Four of them were wounded by live ammunition while the others suffered rubber bullet and beating wounds."]

'Terrorist Squad' Uncovered

TA1503124689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The security forces have in the last few days uncovered a Fatah terrorist squad in the Gaza Strip. According to a statement released by the Israeli Army

spokesman, the squad staged various attacks and murdered a patient in his hospital bed because they suspected him of being a collaborator..

The members of the squad planned another murder, but they were arrested before they managed to carry it out. The squad leader is a resident of Gaza who received instructions from Fatah during a visit to Jordan about a month ago. A total of 24 people were arrested. They constituted the hardcore of a cell of the popular committees that operate on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The suspects were found in possession of a Carl Gustaf submachine gun and various types of guns.

2d 'Terror' Squad Uncovered

TA1503134089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Another terror squad was discovered in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza city. Twenty-six persons were arrested, including some who were active in what are known as the strike committees of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The squad members threw firebombs, set off explosive charges, and attacked local residents.

Employment Figures for Arab Workers Released

TA1203123689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] About 40,000 Arab workers from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are illegally employed in Israel. David Mena', director general of the Employment Service, told our correspondent that about 100,000 people from these areas are employed in Israel today, and that most of them come to work on a more or less regular basis despite the incidents in the territories.

New Oil Well To Raise Production 50 Percent

TA1003112489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Larry Derfner]

[Text] Ashqelon—Israeli's minuscule production of oil is expected to increase by more than 50 percent in the next few days when commercial extraction begins at Kokhav 28, potentially the country's richest oil well, experts said yesterday.

But after a tour of the site, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal cautioned that while Kokhav 28 was a great success by Israeli standards, it would make only a very modest dent in the nation's overall oil needs.

Israel currently produces about 500 barrels of oil per day—less than one percent of its consumption. The remainder is imported from Egypt, Mexico, Norway and various countries selling on the international spot market.

Shahal said Kokhav 28 should yield about 300 barrels a day, but experts at the site were talking hopefully about twice that amount.

The discovery at Kokhav 28 also indicates that the Heletz oil field, where nearly all of Israel's oil has been found, is somewhat larger than previously thought, said Dr. Ya'aqov Gilbo'a, chief geologist of Naphtha, Israel Petroleum Co. The well is located 700 metres north of the 11-kilometre-long field, which is east of Ashqelon. Naphtha owns 95 percent of the well, and Paz Oil Co. owns the rest.

Drilling began at Kokhav 28 on December 25 and the discovery of oil was announced February 22—the first find in Israel in over a year.

Shahal said he will ask visiting American Jewish leaders next week to seek investors in the search for oil in the Dead Sea, due to begin at the end of the year.

Intensive exploration is under way in the off-shore area between Ashqelon and Ashdod. The project, Negev Joint Venture 2, is being conducted by Israeli oil companies with backing by foreign investors, including Armand Hammer. It will continue for another four months, and "we can only pray that they find oil," Shahal said.

Upgraded Phantom To Be Delivered to Air Force

TA1203095389 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Mar 89 p 7

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Excerpts] The first Phantom upgraded at Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], the "Phantom 2,000," will be handed over to the Air Force in the coming weeks.

The upgraded fighter will serve the Air Force beyond the year 2000 and is meant to replace the Lavi aircraft for attacks against ground targets. [passage omitted]

The IAI and the Air Force refused to divulge any details about the cost of the project, but we learned that the cost of upgrading each plane is $8 million. The IAI is now looking for foreign customers for similar projects.

Shamir, Shahal Proposals on Autonomy Dismissed

TA0703155089 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Only Road to Peace"]

[Text] The statements made yesterday by Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Shahal—who are among the most prominent leaders of the Likud and Labor parties—calling for the application of "self-rule" in the occupied territories in one form or another, are no more than a repeated reversion to the talk about the "Camp David accords," particularly that part which concerns the Palestinian problem.

Shamir, Shahal, and all officials in Israel and the world are well aware that even the parties that signed this agreement, with the exception, naturally, of Israel, have acknowledged the agreement's failure and invalidity many times. This has been made clear in numerous statements by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials, as well as in statements by a number of officials in U.S. Administrations.

On the other hand, the principal party concerned in the crux of the Middle East conflict neither took part in the agreement nor endorsed it at any time. Consequently, the Palestinian people, represented by their legitimate leadership, have always affirmed their rejection of "self-rule," whether before or after the "Camp David" accords.

On the international level, however, various countries of the world and its organizations, headed by the United Nations, have stressed the necessity for the Palestinian people to enjoy their legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right to establish their independent state. This was reinforced in the wake of decisions by the Palestinian National Council at its recent session in Algiers, and in the wake of the developments witnessed in the Palestinian diplomatic arena, which have driven the Israeli authorities into a corner.

The Israeli Government does not want to reconcile itself to the fact that the world is passing through a period of international detente and that advanced steps have been taken toward resolving regional problems in various parts of the globe. Instead, Israel's leaders have chosen to run around in circles, and this is reflected in their various daily statements about peace in the region.

European countries, the Soviet Union, and the United States—whose foreign ministers are currently meeting in Vienna to discuss limitation of conventional weapons in Europe, and consequently limitation of the perils of the outbreak of future wars in the region—are requested to give the Middle East problem the importance it deserves. Consequently, they are called upon to convince Israel of the danger of continuing the status quo in the region, and to emphasize to Israel that there is no alternative to the establishment of a Palestinian state so that all the region's nations can reap the benefits of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Otherwise, talk will remain just that.

Khalaf Remarks, PLO Charters Rebutted

JN0903185789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 9 Mar 89

[From the "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] In the Palestine National Charter there are two paragraphs which call for the destruction of Israel and annihilating the Zionist Israeli entity. 'Arafat's senior aide Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] spoke about the charter that calls for the destruction of Israel in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. Let us listen to what Abu Iyad said in this regard:

[Begin Khalaf recording] They say the charter contains things that call for the destruction of Israel. Let us discuss them to see which of the two charters calls for aggression. This is what I meant. [end recording]

Abu Iyad also talks about Israeli charters which call for a state from the Nile to the Euphrates and the two banks [of the Jordan River].

[Begin Khalaf recording] What is meant is to see that the Israeli charter is not only one charter. There are several Israeli charters that demand that Israel's territory is from the Nile to the Euphrates and sometimes the two banks. [end recording]

To be brief and precise, there is no Israeli charter talking about a state from the Nile to the Euphrates or a state including the two banks. The talk about such matters is inspired by Arab propaganda in the fifties and sixties. Those frequently telling lies, eventually believe them.

Anyone willing to read carefully the declaration of independence of the State of Israel can be sure that those allegations are unfounded.

As for the Palestinian charter calling for the destruction of Israel, Abu Iyad wants to discuss and amend the charter during an international conference.

[Begin Khalaf recording] All the details you mention regarding the charter, regarding security arrangements, regarding whether this is one or two stages, and regarding all these things, all of these we can discuss at an international conference and through direct meetings. [end recording]

Without having to touch on Israel's stand on an international conference and rejection of negotiations with the organization, we say that the issue of canceling the charter calling for the destruction of Israel is particularly a domestic issue concerning the organization. Definitely, this is not going to be discussed within any other framework.

The organization has a record rich in terrorism, aggression, and announcements of intentions to destroy Israel. If it wants to improve its image before world public opinion and convince it that it does not harbor evil for Israel through amending the charter, this is its own affair, that cannot be discussed internationally, directly, or indirectly.

King Husayn Holds Talks With Thatcher 13 Mar

JN1303174389 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] His majesty the king had a meeting with the British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London today. In remarks after the meeting, his majesty said that his talks with Mrs Thatcher dealt with Middle Eastern issues and particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict. His majesty said discussions also dealt with relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Plan To Reduce Third World Debt Praised

JN1503084089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Plan To Reduce the Third World Countries' Debts Is the Fruit of International Detente"]

[Text] It seems that the international policies of detente are having a positive effect on major issues like the arms race and international disputes. This is leading to the relaxation of crises in many parts of the world, including Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The same is expected to happen in the Middle East. In addition, these policies, which have been adopted by the two superpowers, are affecting with the world's stagnant economy. As a result, the disclosure of new plans by the United States to reduce Third World debt, which amounts to $500 billion, will revive the world economy and alleviate its crises. It also comes as a response to Soviet leader Gorbachev's proposal that the two superpowers take steps to reduce Third World debt, especially after signs of political instability have appeared in some of these countries.

The famous step taken by Nichols Brady, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in President Bush's new administration, represents a positive, qualitative move, to which many Third World countries attach special importance because it is a departure from the West's customary economic thought and behavior concerning Third World debt and the crises it causes.

The new plan, which will restore confidence between debtors and lenders through rescheduling and reducing these debts, has also affected the IMF and its major shareholders, the European countries and Japan, which have found a new opportunity to recycle huge amounts of money into new investments throughout the world. This has prompted the IMF to announce the availability of revenue estimated at $60 billion to reduce the debts.

If the United States implements the plan in an immediate writeoff of some of these debts, there will be a positive reaction to the new Bush administration from Third World countries, many of which have suffered instability as a result of economic hardship under the past U.S. policies of the Reagan Administration. Therefore, the desired economic relaxation, taking place as a result of international political changes, will be viewed as a shift in the U.S. Administration's policies and will give hope to various economic and political circles, especially in the Middle East, which has been waiting for them for a long time.

Church Delegation 'Refused Entry' to West Bank

JN1303162289 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1451 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Amman, 13 Mar (PETRA)—Israeli occupation authorities have refused entry into the occupied territories of a church delegation composed of representatives from Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The announcement was made by an official of the bishopric of Jerusalem's Evangelical Arab Episcopate. The occupation authorities insisted that the delegation cross the bridge in accordance with customary, degrading procedures applied to ordinary citizens, which are unbecoming to human dignity. The church delegation was supposed to attend a meeting to be convened in Jerusalem this morning to look into questions concerning the bishopric, administrative affairs, and church-related issues inside and outside the occupied Arab territory.

The delegation has had to postpone the crossing indefinitely—until the occupation authorities revoke these procedures, the source added.

The bishopric in Amman has protested the inhuman treatment by the occupation authorities in telegrams to the UN secretary general, the archbishop of Canterbury, His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and the president of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, calling for their urgent intervention to halt these measures in order to maintain church and religious activity and freedom in the holy land.

Al-Qasim on Soviet Initiative, Israeli Election

JN1303171789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Mar 89 p 16

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by 'Abdallah al-'Utum in Amman on 8 March]

[Excerpts] [Al-'Utum] Despite Arab moderation, including the PLO's position, and despite the 54 percent of the Israeli people who reportedly support dialogue with the PLO, the recent Israeli municipal elections revealed great extremism as voters supported the Likud Party. How can the international peace conference be realized?

[Al-Qasim] Each permanent member of the Security Council, supported by all other states, should exert considerable efforts to influence Israel to attend the international peace conference. We find that the Arab position on this has, for the first time, become unified and based on acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is now an integrated stand that responds to the two resolutions. On the basis of

these two resolutions the international conference will be held to bring about Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 in return for peace among the region's states.

In addition to the Israeli withdrawal, there should be, in the first place, a solution to all political, legal, economic, and compensatory aspects of the Palestine question as well as the other Israeli withdrawals from the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Utum] How do you assess the current Soviet diplomatic initiative, especially after Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's recent visit to the region?

[Al-Qasim] Shevardnadze's visit to the region is in itself an assertion of the Soviet Union's desire to participate in the Middle East peace process. We believe that Soviet attempts to establish the background and pillars of the peace process through an international peace conference confirm the Soviet Union's seriousness. We consider the minister's visit to the region a positive step toward a durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

The visit comes at a period of international detente whose positive results we felt during the last few years. These include an improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations and a clearing of the atmosphere between the Soviet Union and other states. We also consider the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, which was completed last month, a positive step. Therefore, the Soviets feel that any move toward further detente is a positive move that emphasizes the world's desire to achieve and strengthen the trend toward peace. And I believe that this feeling, which supports opening avenues of understanding and peace, characterizes the current period.

We agree with the Soviets on the requirements of the Middle East peace process and believe that this subject should be given priority. This is because we believe that this region is volatile and should, therefore, be given priority by those countries that are concerned with preserving world peace as well as those countries directly concerned in the conflict. The Soviet Union and Jordan have an identical definition of the peace process, that is, inviting all the Arab parties: "Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO" to the international conference, along with the UN Security Council member states, and the UN secretary general, in order to attain peace through negotiations.

[Al-'Utum] Talking about the Israeli municipal elections, we have noted the emergence of religious extremism by both Jews and Arabs. The religious party won the presidency of 4 municipalities and the membership of 12 others. How do you interpret this?

[Al-Qasim] There are some contradictions and conflicting trends. While 54 percent of Israelis agreed to the principle of dialogue with the PLO, the Likud party scored gains in the elections.

I do not know whether the outcome of the elections was due to some municipalities making narrow local gains through the authority of the Likud, or whether the results reflect the interests of Israeli voters or beneficiaries of these municipalities. The most important thing is that there exists a basic change in the Israeli community. This change is toward giving peace more of a chance. Ultimately, the peace process is more important than the results of the recent municipal elections.

The aforementioned 54 percent represents the entire Israeli community, not certain villages or municipalities. We hope that this number will grow in response to the positive Arab position, which is to bring about a just and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Utum] When will King Husayn visit the United States?

[Al-Qasim] This spring, but the date has not yet been fixed.

[Al-'Utum] The PLO is said to be willing to enter into confederation with Jordan after the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. What do you think about this?

[Al-Qasim] In 1985, Jordan and the PLO agreed on the confederation concept as a means at that time to enable the PLO attend the international conference and overcome the obstacles that Israel placed before it.

As for the renewed presentation of the idea by the Palestinians, Jordan interprets confederation as a contractual relationship between two states or political entities, with each having the constituents of sovereignty and authority over people and territory. After the Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinian people should be able to exercise their sovereignty and express their opinion on relations with Jordan. Jordan cannot accept confederation before this.

When the Palestinian people have expressed themselves freely on the issue, Jordan will announce its decision.

[Al-'Utum] What is the latest information regarding the Jordanian election law?

[Al-Qasim] We are putting the final touches, the amendments to the law, which was originally adopted by the House of Representatives.

As a result of the disengagement decision, new administrative divisions were introduced into the law. Jordan will be divided administratively as it exists now. The old law covered both the east and west banks of the Kingdom.

Al-Rifa'i on Economy, Parliamentary Elections

JN0803200789 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met this evening with secretaries general, governors, heads of government departments, chairmen of municipal and village councils, and representatives of the local press. During this meeting, the prime minister reviewed Jordan's policies. He also explained the pan-Arab importance of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the leading role played by His Majesty King Husayn together with his brothers, their excellencies presidents Saddam Husayn, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in establishing this Arab group. The ACC constitutes a force on behalf of its member states and peoples and the Arab nation in all national economic and political matters.

The prime minister then spoke about developments in the Palestine issue. He praised the brave intifadah [uprising] of the fraternal Palestinian Arab people and the excellent fraternal relations between the Kingdom and the PLO. He also praised King Husayn's continuous efforts to give momentum to the peace process and reinforce the Palestinian position in European and international spheres.

Prime Minister al-Rifa'i then explained in detail the economic situation in the Kingdom. He lauded the citizens' response to the monetary, financial, and economic measures taken by the government to adapt to new circumstances that requires self-reliance, rationalization of expenditure, encouraging investments and national production, and developing commodity and service exports. He also explained the causes of the financial crisis in the Kingdom, which was mainly the result of the nonfulfillment of the commitments made to Jordan at the Baghdad summit. He added that as a result of this, consecutive Jordanian governments had borrowed amounts equivalent to these commitments to provide for Jordan's national security and economic development.

The prime minister affirmed that Jordan is a steadfast bastion. He added that, thanks to the sons of Jordan and King Husayn's enlightened leadership, Jordan can overcome these circumstances and reorganize the economic, industrial, financial, and monetary policy to resume progress on more clearly established foundations.

The prime minister affirmed that despite the government's concern to enforce the greatest degree of austerity, it has decided to subsidize the citizens' basic food supplies with more than 60 million [Jordanian] dinars [JD] for this year. The prime minister noted that the subsidy was decided after an extensive and careful study that took into consideration that the 60 million JD constitute an additional burden on the treasury. Despite this, social solidarity and an honorable living standard for the citizens was considered above all else.

The prime minister urged the chairmen and members of the municipal and village councils and reporters to pay special attention to explaining the citizens' duties and role in Jordan's period of adaptation and the importance of safeguarding public funds. He also called on them to explain to the citizens the importance of subsidies and their cost to the treasury as well as the importance national wealth resources, in particular, by finding production alternatives in Jordan's rural areas. This includes initiating individual production in the villages. He affirmed that the government will continue to support the Kingdom's municipal and village councils.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister answered several questions. Asked about the return of parliamentary rule, the prime minister said: Jordan was never separated from parliamenatry life. However, he added, in light of the legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank, the parliament was dissolved. Specialized committees prepared a reform on the electoral law. The government will endorse this reform. It will then be presented to His Majesty King Husayn, as the one with the constitutional authority, to set a date for the elections.

The meeting was attended by a number of ministers and his eminence the chief qadi [religious judge].

'Awn Holds News Conference on Syrian Occupation

NC1403162189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 14 Mar 89

[News conference by General Michel 'Awn, prime minister and Army commander, with unidentified correspondents on 14 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Following the indiscriminate bombardment of Lebanese territory by the Syrian occupation army, the cabinet met to take the necessary measures to bring about the immediate withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. We are now preparing these measures on local, regional, and international levels.

I am meeting with you to announce this decision. There is no doubt that the reasons for this decision cannot be set out on one, two, or three pages. You need a history book to recount the bad practices that the Syrians have been responsible for when they first came here up to the present day. The Lebanese can no longer sleep while a gun is aimed at their windows, homes and offices.

We have seen the ugliest forms of war but have not seen anyone uglier than the Syrians in war. I have not yet seen a state which claims to be fraternal and which shells the Defense Ministry, the Army headquarters, and the Presidential Palace. This we have seen only from the Syrian barbarians. I do not know what breed or race these people belong to, or what they are made of.

Therefore, what happened today is regrettable; it is more than regrettable—it is appalling. No democratic country in the world can any longer give cover to this bad role that Syria is playing in Lebanon. Hence, I have met with you, and am ready to answer your questions.

[Question, in English] Please, can you repeat this in English?

['Awn, in English] Yes, we have decided today that we have to take all the necessary measures to make the Syrians withdraw from Lebanon as soon as possible. We are going to announce these measures that we can take in a few hours, maybe, in a few days. We will continue until we reach this goal.

[Question] The people are saying today: There is military pressure on the Army and the Army is responding to it. Where will this lead? Should the people prepare themselves for a long confrontation or is this just an exchange of fire with the Syrians?

['Awn] Currently, we have one aim; namely, to liberate our land now that we have liberated our will. From now on, we will not accept a situation where we are at the mercy of Syrian guns. There is a proper place for Syrian guns. The Syrians claim that they have occupied territory—the Golan. Let them go to the golan and put their guns there, not in Beirut, not on the outskirts of Al-Matn, not on the outskirts of Kasrawan, and not on the outskirts of Al-Batrun, Zgharta, and other places. These are peaceful palces in which we want to live. Let the Syrians take their guns to what they claim is their occupied territory.

[Question] Will the government ask the Arab League to hold an urgent meeting to deal with the situation, in which you will call for the removal of the Syrians from Lebanon?

['Awn] Everything is possible. A letter is currently on its way to the Arab League secretary general and to the chairman of the six-member committee. All these measures will be taken in due sequence. We will spare no effort, whatever it may be, for the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon. From now on we will not accept occupation. Every time Syria wants something from us or something crosses its mind, it launches a war of extermination against us. Most of the time we do not know what it wants, and yet we see shells falling on our heads. This is totally impermissible. We will continue our efforts till the end.

[Question] So, it has become an overt war: Syria against Lebanon?

['Awn] That is what it has always been. However, Syria managed to create some cardboard figures on the ground as a cover. Unfortunately, the media sometimes magnify these tools. The core of the dispute, the entire dispute from all angles, is with Syria. There is no Lebanese-Lebanese dispute. No Lebanese wants an illegal port to operate. What is done at illegal ports? Arms are smuggled in, drugs are dealt in, and terrorists are exported. These ports provide a secret line for the transfer of terrorism abroad. Syria has training camps for terrorists under its supervision in Al-Biqa'. It wants to keep the legal [as heard] ports so that it can smuggle the opium processed in Al-Biqa' as well as the terrorists present in the Al-Biqa' through them. Syria incites some of those who are under Syrian occupation against the legitimate authority, so that it does not lose its authority and can continue trafficking in arms, drugs, and terrorists. This is the substance of the dispute, which sometimes takes other forms. For excample, a person might come up and tell you I am so and so, because they benefit financially and have weak consciences.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, there were reports that [words indistinct] from some secure residential areas. Is this correct?

['Awn] We are defending the land. We are defending more than forks and spoons. I want to stress one thing; namely, that the shelling was aimed at military targets—Syrian military targets in fact, not Lebanese ones. Geographically speaking, the shelling has not reached further north than Al-Raml al-'Ali. I can confirm this.

Second, I have information that the Syrians fired some shells at random into the western sector of Beirut in order to justify the crime they wanted to commit against the eastern areas after failing to get the Lebanese to fight each other. I know the true position of the Lebanese in the occupied area, in the west bank—I will not call it West Beirut anymore. It is now more like the West Bank and an intifadah [uprising] of stones is possibly needed there. The situation should not remain as it is now, that is, at the mercy of a Syrian intelligence officer who escalates things at times and threatens at others.

We are not Syria's agents. We are not the Syrian regime's serfs and peasants. We are an independent republic with our own decisionmaking power. Our decisions are made democratically. We consult. We do not want anyone's tutelage. That is the objective today.

[Question] Regarding international stands, particularly those of the United States and the Soviet Union, are they clear to you? Has there been any reaction from them?

['Awn] We are a people who want to live. We are fighting for suvival. If these are countries of law and order, if they are against terrorism and respect their systems, they are committed to stand by us. I cannot believe that the United States and Russia would side with terrorism, smuggling, and other shameful things, which anyone would be ashamed of if they were committed by any regime in Lebanon.

[Question] Were there any consultations today with the ambassadors of the major powers?

['Awn] No. I contacted the Lebanese ambassadors and asked them to express the Lebanese stand.

[Question] Does this mean that contacts will be at the international level?

['Awn] We will inform the media, all the Lebanese, and the world of every step we take.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, from what you are saying, we understand that the battle will continue until Syrian withdrawal takes place. Can you confirm this?

['Awn] A war of liberation has started.

[Question, in English] If the Syrians do not give up, how long do you think you can go on?

['Awn] What?

[Question] If the Syrians do not pull out and do not give up fighting...

['Awn, interrupting in English] We will continue to fight them, without a continual, maybe, a continual, battle, you know—or duel of artillery. But the battle is open now and we cannot accept anything except the withdrawal of the Syrians.

[Question, in English] But we feel like we are on an island here. They shell the ports and [words indistinct].

['Awn, in English] That is, you know, the damages of war. We have to accept it. Liberation has its price and we have to accept the price.

[Question, in English] No, not only the damages but the supplies.

['Awn, in English] Well, the supplies, we have enough right now, and we will use other resources to have the supplies necessary—for us and for our people in the occupied area.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, [words indistinct] by the parties in areas other than those under legitimate authority to take part in the liberation process?

['Awn] To start an intifadah of stones, because the vilest kind of occupation is the one we now suffer at the hands of the Syrians. Under cover of brotherhood and friendship, it is propagating the worst type of dissension and hypocrisy.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, would you like to tell us briefly about today's fighting, [words indistinct]? Could you clarify for us the battles going on today?

['Awn] I cannot give you the details. For this you should go to the operations branch at the Army Command, which is in charge. [words indistinct] to shell all the centers taking part in the aggression against us, to return the fire, silence it, and destroy its sources if possible. It was an open war, characterized today by the disclosure of the real face of the Syrians. It was clearly shown that they were the ones involved in the confrontation. Unfortunately, some Lebanese were forced to make statements without being in a position to verify what was happening. They were asked, in Tripoli, for instance, and other places as well, to state that the bombardment involved innocent people. So they made a statement on the basis of what they heard, not on what they had actually seen. Then these statements were repeatedly aired by the media. This method has become quite outdated for the Lebanese.

Today, shame on any Syrian officer or soldier who permitted himself to fire his gun in Lebanon. His mission should not be here. He must ask his superiors, both political and military, what he has been doing in Lebanon for 14 years. Sometimes the Syrians set Amal against Hizballah, sometimes they want to set the Lebanese Forces against the Army, sometimes they set Franjiyah the son against Franjiyah the father, sometimes they set the Al-Mahayri wing of the Syrian Social Nationalist

party against the Juraysh wing of the party, and sometimes they set [word indistinct] against the pro-Junblatt. Their task is to cause division and friction among the Lebanese, so that they can keep their hands on Lebanon. I tell the Syrians today: Your mission is over. Leave us in peace. I invite you to have a good relationship if you want to, but from now on, we are committed to the liberation of our land and our people and will not remain at the mercy of the gun.

Your Excellency Mr Prime Minister: people are saying that it seems that for a month Maj Gen 'Awn has been taking firm stands on persons we considered brothers and, perhaps, on those whom we considered foes. In other words, these are clear stands we have not been accustomed to in the past 14 years. The question which occurs to these people is: What does Gen 'Awn depend on? In other words, the people are surprised by these stands. How do you explain them?

['Awn] I will give you a small example. A little bird could no longer survive in a wheat field. During the day, some of its young heard a peasant telling his son: call your cousins, brothers, and uncles to help us with the harvest. One told his mother, who said: Do not be afraid, there will be no harvesting tomorrow. However, tell me each night what you hear from the peasant and his son. The next day, the peasant asked his son: Did you tell your uncles and cousins to come and help us with the harvesting? The son answered: I told them, but it appears that they will not come. The father said: Well, tell them again. The son repeated the request for 3 days. Every night the bird told its young ones not to be afraid and that there would be no harvesting. On the last day, the young birds heard the peasant telling his son: Sharpen your sickle and scythe because we will begin the harvest tomorrow. Depend on yourself. The young birds told their mother that the peasant informed his son to be prepared for harvesting tomorrow. The mother said: They will be harvesting tomorrow, so let us move the nest tonight. This proves that self-reliance is what counts and aid is a secondary matter. Gen 'Awn depends chiefly on you. He depends on your word, on the Army, and on the muscle of the Lebanese people, who want to liberate themselves. Gen 'Awn depends on this strength and on his right. God will help him.

[Question] After today's blatant Syrian attack on the Lebanese people and Army, do you believe that any fraternal Arab and European states will demand moves at the United Nations and the Arab League? Do you believe that the Arab states will ask the Arab League to act and that the European states will ask the United Nations to do so?

['Awn] Let them act. We will not act. We did not plan the present situation, but they brought us to it. We always make a request when we reach a situation that we have planned. Do not think that if I do not depend on anyone I will capitulate to Syria. I will not capitulate. Some think that my resistance is targeted against someone. This resistance is part of my blood, thinking, and mind. I resist and ask the others to help me. One thinks of people and of help if one is planning for a specific purpose. I am sitting here performing a duty. I will resist and ask others to help me. This is the difference between me and others.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the Syrians were covering up in the past but are exposed now?

['Awn] Yes. This is understood. It became clear after they became insolent in their lies, as Mr (Zughb) said the other day. They cover up their weak spot with glass—this is the political fact—and then they talk about virtue. They are so insolent as to launch fighting in front of all the Arabs and pretend they know nothing—that they have not caused this escalation. They know nothing! What are they responsible for in Beirut? Who is responsible for security in Beirut? Who is responsible for security? Is it not the Syrian occupation forces' authority? How can the great Syria, that considers itself to have a security role, allow brigands and outlaws to have weapons, escalate and upset the security situation, shell a port, and shell a city with weapons whose range is 30 km? [Words indistinct] this gun with a 30-km range that the Syrian forces could not see. That is what is regrettable really. Even if Syria's hand is not on the trigger, who is responsible when the Syrian forces are present? Who is making statements and talking? Are they not its trumpets and tools?

Who but the so-called minister of interior is stating that the airport is under the protection of Syrian forces? He is trying to scare us indirectly that they...['Awn changes thought] He [words indistinct] that 'Awn wants to close the airport by force. Today? The airport is a Lebanese utility which we are protecting with our lives. They might be hoping that we destroy the airport so that the people will then have to travel through Damascus. This is our own, and for own benefit, so how can we destroy it? Are we not responsible for paying the costs of treating and of providing health services for every person injured in West Beirut? He could be a relative. Only the foreigner does not feel for us because he has no links with the people or the land.

[Question] Today [words indistinct] a war between the Lebanese state and the occupying Syrian state. Is it not a Lebanese-Syrian war through local tools?

['Awn] Exactly. You have said it.

[Question] Dies this mean that any cease-fire will be with the Syrian army—the Syrian state?

['Awn] Naturally. Naturally.

[Question] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister. May God give you strength.

Appeals to Arab League

NC1403163389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] General Michel 'Awn, in his capacity as acting foreign minister, has sent the following cable to Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary genral, and Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister and head of the Arab Good Offices Committee.

While the Lebanese Government, led by Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn, is doing its utmost to extend the state's authority and enforce the law—at a time when the six-party Arab committee is continuing its good offices to help Lebanon ride out its predicament—the Syrian troops in Lebanon, along with their military tools, are deliberately causing the security situation to flare up. They have impeded the march which has gained the support of fraternal Arab countries and all friendly countries. They resorted to indiscriminate bombardment, including the shelling of defenseless residential areas, in a bid to bring Lebanon back into the whirlpool of chaos and blood.

The Lebanese Government condemns this blatant violation of national sovereignty, the deliberate sabotage of its march to restore its sovereignty over all ports and utilities, and the serious evil consequences for the entire Arab family resulting from these acts—not to mention the impeding of the efforts of the Arab Good Offices committee that is trying to get Lebanon out of its ordeal. It appeals to the Arab League to intervene immediately to bring a quick end to these aggressions, violations, and practices and to work toward the immediate withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, so as to avoid the shedding of innocent blood and preserve the efforts of the fraternal Arab countries to achieve peace in Lebanon.

'Awn Accuses Syria of Shelling His Office

NC1403210689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Major General Michel 'Awn has stated that he escaped a Syrian-planned terrorist act. Inspecting his office at the Defense Ministry, which had been hit by a shell that penetrated the reinforced concrete roof, 'Awn told AFP that he himself was the target, adding: The operation was very carefully planned. They directed exceptional firepower at this part of the building. I was not there at the time of the operation, contrary to my usual behavior.

Military experts said that a 122-mm shell had been fired from a distance of 8 or 9 km causing a 50-cm hole in the ceiling of the room. Aluminum sheeting had collapsed, files covered with dust lay scattered about the office, and seat cushions had been torn.

Gen 'Awn accused Syria of being a terrorist state, as defined by the United States. He said that the calm which has prevailed since this evening is temporary because the wolf is still here, as he put it. He also asserted that he has started an open battle with Syria.

Reportage on Syrian 'Indiscriminate' Shelling

Army Command Condemns Shelling

NC1403123789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of General 'Awn's "Army Command" on 14 March]

[Text] After the failure of the repeated Syrian Attempts to drag the Lebanese people into inter-Lebanese fighting, the occupation Syrian army has intervened militarily and blatantly, revealing its true intentions toward the Lebanese people.

Since 1300 today, the emplacements of the Syrian army artillery and rockets have been directing concentrated bombardment against the Defense Ministry and its environs, as well as all other military centers. All the villages and residential areas in East Beirut are coming under indicriminate shellfire, causing grave losses in life and property. The Army forces managed to determine the enemy's sources of fire and are using appropriate weapons to silence them.

W. Beirut, AUB Hospital Hit

NC1403134389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The indiscriminate shelling is reaching the streets and quarters in West Beirut and Southern Suburb, particularly the Airport Road, Al-Maramil, and Al-Awza'i. The shelling has caused more casualties and several fires, including fires in the garage of the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Al-Nasr restaurant in Al-Rawshah. Teams are working to extinguish the fires despite the intensive shelling, which did not spare the residential areas, shops, bakeries, and hospitals. An artillery shell landed inside the AUB hospital 30 minutes ago.

Pedestrians and drivers deserted West Beirut streets and quarters because of the spiteful and devastating shelling. Life has come to a complete standstill.

Shelling Reaches Shtawrah

NC1403150789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Mar 89

d[Text] The scope of the indiscriminate and devastating shelling has been extended to include areas far from West Beirut. According to security sources, seven shells landed in Shtawrah [in Al-Biqa'] this afternoon. The building housing the Banque du Liban et d'Outremer was hit. There were some civilian casualties, the number of which has not yet been determined.

6 Civilians Killed in Shtawrah

NC1403173189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The scope of the indiscriminate and devastating shelling has been expanded. Seven shells fell in the town of Shtawrah this afternoon. One shell hit the building housing the Banque du Liban et d'Outremer. According to security sources, 6 civilians were killed and 31 were wounded.

VOL Rounds Up Attacks

NC1403191689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Shell and rocket attacks on the eastern areas and their residential quarters from Syrian artillery and rocket launcher emplacements in the mountain, West Beirut, and the southern suburb continued from 0550 until around 1600 today, when the shelling abated and was limited to the frontlines of 'Alayh, Dahr al-Wahsh, and 'Arayya. Some random shells fell between 1600 and 1800 on the areas of 'Arayya, Al-Kahhalah, Al-Jumhur, and Harat al-Sitt, and on the residential areas between B'abda and Al-Hadath and in their vicinity. Skirmishes have also been reported on the frontlines of Sannin, Al-Matahin, and port-Normandie, and at the post office in the southern suburb. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from security sources that seven Syrian emplacements in Lebanon were completely destroyed after being directly hit. These include one in the Al-Raml Al-'Ali area, one in Bhamdun, and others on the eastern side of these areas extending froma Dahr al-Baydar to Riyaq.

Security organs have monitored wire communications between the Syrian forces noting these losses and casualties in their ranks. It is known that every emplacement consists of a nine-member crew.

Informed sources in Al-Biqa' have told the Voice of Lebanon correspondent that the concentrated shelling of the Syrian positions in Al-Biqa' hit the Syrian roadblock in the Al-Mudayraj area. Four Syrians were killed and a fifth was taken to one of the hospitals in Al-Biqa'. In the Shtawrah area, Rif'at 'Ali al-Subh and George al-Qashsh were killed, another person was injured, and the 'Aql restaurant was damaged when an artillery shell was fired on a Syrian position. [passage omitted]

Sources have reported that Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has told those who contacted him that the Amal Movement has nothing to do with what took place this afternoon. These sources also cited Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt as saying that his emplacements halted the shelling this afternoon and that he demanded that the sources of this shelling be pinpointed. [passage omitted]

Iranian, Soviet Embassies Hit in Shellings

LD1403174389 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Beirut, March 14, IRNA—The Maronite Army led by the renegade Michel 'Awn ganged up with Phalangist militias for brutal shelling of Muslim populated areas of the Lebanese capital which began this morning.

No accurate report on casualties is yet available, however, early estimates put the number at 95. Several hospitals, banks and charity institutes have also suffered heavy losses.

Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has called on all foreign diplomats in Lebanon to reflect the "painful incidents" unleashed by the Christians, to their respective governments, in an attempt to prevent further bloodshed in Lebanon.

Iranian and Soviet Embassies as well as the building of the Lebanese Interior Ministry in Al-Adeliya [placename as received] have been hit during the shelling.

Meanwhile, reports from east Sidon said: The Al-Nasirite Popular Organisation and Zionist mercenaries in Lebanon have fueled the fire in the south. No reports on casualites have been received.

Papers Cited on 'Awn's 'Massacres' in Lebanon

JN1503091589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Mar 89

[From the "press review"]

[Text] Under the headline "The Crime of the East Beirut Clique and the Zionist Enemy Fingers," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The bloody massacre perpetrated by the East Beirut clique against the Lebanese people was no surprise. This clique, that has obstructed constitutional elections and carried out a military coup in East Beirut, seeks to undermine the national political solution, which has won the votes of a majority of the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces. It also seeks to separate the area it controls—by terrorism—from Lebanon in implementation of the Zionist scheme to partition Lebanon, fragment it, and eliminate its national and Arab identity.

TISHRIN adds: This clique has failed to extend its hegemony outside its own narrow borders. Its isolation has also intensified because the Lebanese people would not give up their unity and opposed the partition plan. This has left the clique with no other option than to destroy and burn Lebanon, especially after failing to destroy the Lebanese Army.

On the same subject and under the headline "The Rancorous Traitors," AL-THAWRAH says: Once again, lacking legitimacy or the backing of institutions that it has destroyed or whose functions it has obstructed, the isolationist clique has shed blood and perpetrated hideous massacres against innocent civilians. It has thrown Lebanon into chaos, paralyzing it, and carrying out acts of mass terrorism against its people, who have been burned by the flames of the crisis.

AL-THAWRAH adds: However, the bloodthirsty isolationists do not realize that they will never be able to achieve their objectives by these methods. They will not succeed in carrying out their divisionist strategy through criminal violence, or in implementing the plan assigned to them by Israel, because the Lebanese people are alert to their strategy and its devastating nature and the true dimensions of the conspiracy they are implementing in Israel's favor.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: If the isolationists are intoxicated today by the destruction they cause, the blood they shed, and by the illusion of controlling even a small part of Beirut, they will soon realize that they will only reap failure compounded by the disgrace of killing and destruction, and that their disappointment will be as great as their crimes.

Under the headline "The Isolationist Escalation in the Zionist Plan," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: This suspect agreement between Rabin and 'Awn is not strange, for they are both killing and retaliating against the sons of Lebanon. What else does the isolationists' brutal shelling of residential areas in Beirut mean, coming at a time when Rabin's planes were bombing Lebanese villages and Lahd's mercenaries were attacking citizens in southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: Anyone familiar with the escalation in Lebanon will realize how the isolationists are seeking to resolve the Zionists' impasse. Rabin himself has admitted that there are daily battles between nationalist resistance fighters and the invading Zionist forces. Because Rabin knows full well that it is impossible to stop resistance, we find that he has made plans to take revenge in his own way by utilizing the reserve Zionist agents in Beirut. Perhaps, through this escalation, the Zionists might be expanding their aggression into a pretext for war.

Visiting Iranian Condemns 'Satanic Verses'

NC1303072589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The cultural affairs deputy minister in the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture met the Syrian information minister in Damascus yesterday. During this meeting, the Zionist plot of publishing and distributing the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses" and ways of combating it were discussed. Elaborating on measures taken by his country to condemn the publication and dissemination of the book, the Syrian information minister said: The publication and dissemination of the book, "The Satanic Verses" is not only an insult to Islam but to all the revealed religions.

Our country's cultural affairs deputy minister of the Islamic Guidance and Culture Ministry also met the Syrian culture and national guidance minister, who stressed that the publication and dissemination of the book, "The Satanic Verses" is a calculated plot hatched by imperialism and Zionism against the Islamic ummah. The Syrian culture and national guidance minister said: A writer who profanes divine sanctities and the Holy Prophet and wounds the susceptibilities of a billion Muslims, deserves the severest retribution.

Ba'th Party Official Receives CSSR Visitor

JN0603205689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], received this evening Comrade Zdenek Horeni, Central Committee member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and editor in chief of the newspaper RUDE PRAVO. The meeting was attended by Dr Turki Saqr, director general of AL-BA'TH newspaper, and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus.

Their talks centered on relations of cooperation between the ASBP and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. They also reviewed the most prominent developments in

the Arab region and the world. They also talked about the role of journalists in Syria and the CSSR in supporting the two peoples' struggle and the march of peace and progress in the world.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained the principles of the Syrian policy on these developments, particularly the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestinian cause. Al-Ahmar affirmed that peace is one of Syria's basic objectives, and that the withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors from the occupied Arab territories, and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights, particularly their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, are basic requirements for the attainment of such a peace. He added that the proper way to reach this objective is through an international conference under UN auspices.

Comrade al-Ahmar said that Israel is the major obstacle on the road to a just and lasting peace in the region through its rejection of this conference, its refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Comrade al-Ahmar expressed Syria's appreciation for the CSSR's support for the Arab causes.

For his part, Comrade Horeni reiterated his party and country's support for the Arab cause and legitimate Arab rights. He wished Syria and its people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Prime Minister Receives YAR Military Official

JN0703205689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1300 received Mr 'Abdallah al-Hadrami, director of the military economic establishment in the Yemen Arab Republic and his delegation in the presence of the director of the military housing establishment and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-Hadrami conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his good wishes to the Syrian Arab nation. The prime minister welcomed Mr al-Hadrami and the delegation and conveyed similar greetings to Mr 'Abd al-Ghani and his good wishes to the fraternal Yemeni people.

During the meeting, talks centered on joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries, especially in the economic and trade fields and on means of varying and expanding them in support of joint Arab action.

They also discussed cooperation between the military economic establishment in the YAR and the concerned establishments in Syria.

Defense Minister Meets With PDRY Counterpart

JN1003201489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, received this morning Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Bureau and minister of defense of the PDRY, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Gen 'Ali Aslan and Gen Hasan Turkmani, deputy chiefs of staff, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

Talks centered on the strong relations of friendship and cooperation between the two fraternal armies and means of promoting them.

PDRY Defense Minister Col Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad arrived this morning with his delegation in Damascus, where he was received by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense; Gen 'Ali Aslan and Gen Hasan Turkmani, deputy chiefs of staff; a number of ranking officials of the General Command, the PDRY ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

This afternoon, the minister and his accompanying delegation paid a visit to the martyrs' tomb in Najha, where they were received by the major general commander of the southern region and a number of the organization leadership's officers. After placing a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier, he signed the visitor's book and expressed his respect and appreciation for the souls of the martyrs and the sacrifices they made for the freedom of the nation and the victory of the Arab cause.

Minister Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad made a statement in which he said: This visit comes as Syria celebrates the 26th anniversay of the glorious March revolution. It will yield positive results and many new advances and successes in various areas, particularly in the military field. He affirmed that the importance of this visit is demonstrated by the nature of the present situation and the recent regional and international political and military developments, especially in the Arab-Zionist conflict. He also said that Syria plays a decisive role under the leadership of the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad in balancing the struggle and confronting imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Concluding his statement, the minister hoped that his visit would herald the beginning of discussions on numerous issues of mutual concern, especially in building up defense and developing cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal Arab armies to serve the national struggle and pan-Arab interests.

Afghanistan

Kabul-Mujahidin Battle for Jalalabad Continues

Rebels Capture 2 Military Posts

BK1503023389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fierce fighting continues around Jalalabad, and the mujahidin are reported to have captured two more military posts and shot down three military aircraft. They also damaged several tanks and vehicles. Another report says mujahidin attacked the Kabul forces at Qal'eh-ye Sorkh and Jabal os Saraj in Parvan Province and damaged three tanks. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is reported to have supplied more MiG-27 planes to the Kabul regime to bomb the cities and towns which are under the control of the mujahidin or which are expected to be captured by them. Yet another report, citing mujahidin sources, says that eight pilots and four flight engineers stationed at Kabul airport have defected to the mujahidin.

Airport Arms Depot Blown Up

BK1503113089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say: As the fighting around Jalalabad continues, the mujahidin have blown up an ammunition dump on the airfield and an oil depot. Missiles and artillery attacks on the runway have put the airport out of service. Voice of America says more than two dozen of Kabul regime's helicopters have arrived in Jalalabad in an apparent attempt to evacuate civil and military officials and their families in the wake of intensification in the war.

Kabul To Airlift Officials

LD1503122389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] According to reports received by the Central News Unit, intense fighting between the Muslim revolutionaries of Afghanistan and the forces of that country's regime is continuing in the city of Jalalabad, the central city of Nangarhar Province.

The Muslim revolutionaries have announced that up to now, two fighter-bombers and one helicopter of the Kabul regime have been downed by the Muslim revolutionaries. On the basis of these same reports, yesterday, approximately 25 helicopters landed in regions of Jalalabad which are under the control of Kabul regime forces and it appears that, due to the intensity of fighting, the Government intends to airlift prominent officials and civilians out of this city.

Meanwhile, officials of the Pakistani Government said that since fighting began in the city of Jalalabad 10 days ago, (?18,000) people from this region have entered Pakistan. This is the largest number of refugees which have entered Pakistan at one time during civil war in Afghanistan. Pakistani officials have invited representatives of relief organizations to call an extraordinary meeting in order to study ways of helping these refugees.

Pakistani-Backed 'Elements' Defeated in Qandahar

LD1403144689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Armed Forces units of the Republic of Afghanistan which have taked the oath of loyalty of their people and country, will safeguard national indepence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and will resolutely crush those who try to disrupt the peaceful lives of our people.

As a result of victorious operation of the heroic Armed Forces of Afghanistan in the northeastern front at Tari Kowt, Qandahar, 7 people backed by Pakistan and the United States were killed, and 8 fortifications, 3 mortars, 4 DShK's and 16 positions were destroyed. Four boxes of handgrenades, 110 mortar shells, and 3,000 DShK bullets were captured by the security forces.

According to another report, the Armed Forces in the area of Karkar, in Pol-e Khomri district, Baghlan Province, captured 6 mortars, 12 missiles and 2 boxes of ammunition from the warmongering elements.

As many as four Pakistan-backed military elements were killed as a result of the blows of Armed Forces artillery on the concentrations of the extremists in Enjil District, Herat Province, and a large number were wounded.

According to another report, the country's youths continue to join the Armed Forces. As many as 312 youths have gone to military commissariats to be enlisted, and have joined related Armed Forces units.

Captured Generals Say Kabul Fall 'Imminent'

LD1403145189 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 14, IRNA—The downfall of the Kabul regime was certain and imminent, said an Afghan Army commander captured by the mujahidin in a recent battle for Jalalabad. Brig. Gen. Nur Muhammad told IRNA in Peshawar his Samar Kheyl 11th logistical division was routed during the mujahidin attack. Another senior captive Brig. Gen. Ghulam 'Ali, who served in the Afghan Army for 27 years, said government forces had completely lost morale. "But pressures exerted on them by the army commanders prevent them from surrendering," he said.

The senior officers were among 600 Kabul troops captured by the mujahidin affiliated to Mahaz-e Milli (National Front) during their attack on Jalalabad, the third largest city of Afghanistan last week.

'Abdul Rahim, a young colonel in charge of infantry training of the 11th division said the majority of soldiers believe the regime's overthrow was certain. "They are awaiting an opportunity to either flee or submit to the mujahidin." He said mines had been planted all around Jalalabad and a considerable number of soldiers lost their lives as they tried to escape.

Armed Forces Supreme Command Communique 14 Mar
LD1403190189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces Supreme Command's Communique, 14 March 1989:

Pakistani soldiers and militias [passage indistinct] are dutybound to mobilize and command in the frontlines of an offensive operation and guiding artillery, rocket and other heavy weapons fire. Pakistan's Armed Forces, which are stationed in the border area near Nangarhar, supply arms, ammunition and food and undertake other logistics operations. As a result of regular and extended operations by the heroic Air Force, artillery and Army, the enemy's advance has been repulsed and in a number of cases the enemy has been forced back. As a result of these operations the enemy has sustained great casualties, and lost large amounts of weapons, ammunition and fortifications. The heavy blows inflicted on the enemy by our heroic units in the Jalalabad suburbs have greatly weakened their morale, and have frustrated their hopes of capturing the city.

Accurate information from behind enemy frontlines says that every armed group associated with organizations connected with Pakistan tries to pull its members back from the frontlines and station them in the rearlines. This has resulted in violence, low morale and even armed clashes. In addition, they have issued a ban on sending the dead back to Pakistan for cremation and burial. Instead, Pakistani advisers and commanders of some groups connected with Pakistani organizations are burying them in mass graves. This has created a wave of anger and hatred among many of the opposition's armed members. Also, other Pakistani advisers have not allowed members of the armed groups to remove their injured comrades from the frontlines. This has resulted in the death of a great many injured enemies. Similarly, some prisoners and those who have sought refuge with the state say that Pakistani advisers poison people who have been wounded in the frontline and others who have been seriously injured. They only send to Pakistan those who were injured in the support echelons of the frontlines, so they say.

These measures are taken because on the one hand removing the wounded and dead from the front would require the allocation of people involved at the battlefront. A decrease in attacking and fighting raids would result. On the other hand the enemy's heavy loss of life does not lead to problems with the families of the refugees and Pakistanis and subsequent protests.

The revelation of these criminal actions perpetrated by the Pakistani advisers and a number of commanders belonging to Afghan organizations dependent on them, has created a series of deep protests among the refugee camps' inhabitants in Pakistan, those taking part in combat and the families of Pakistani troops. Demonstrations in a number of refugee camps declared these actions by the Pakistani advisers anti-human, anti-Islamic and anti-Afghan and they have condemned them. At the refugee camps in Meta and (Manga) these demonstrations and protests caused clashes with the Pakistani militia and in order to crush these protests, Pakistani Armed Forces were dispatched.

Further information adds that armed individuals of the opposition groups in the enemy ranks, on the one hand due to these criminal actions by the Pakistani advisers, and on the other hand [word indistinct] of the attack on Jalalabad, consider the continuation of the war in an anti-Afghan front groundless and contrary to Islamic, humanitarian and Afghan traditions and principles—and avoid taking part in combat. They join those groups who have not taken part in attacking Jalalabad city.

The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces high command warmly welcome this sound decision by individuals and groups who have stopped fighting and express thanks and appreciation to those individuals and groups which have not taken an active part in the battle for Jalalabad city. The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command takes the responsibility of announcing to these individuals and groups and others who are still in the enemy ranks that all those who enter the regions under the control of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces will be safe. They can confidently contact the units and companies of the Armed Forces and other state authorities and transfer their wounded to Jalalabad city hospitals for treatment, and not let their wounded be eliminated by the Pakistani advisers in the name of treatment.

Now, when our homeland is under open attack by Pakistan and a number of groups linked to it, the necessity for national unity among all Afgans is stronger than ever before.

Wake up, opposition armed individuals and groups and commanders. Do not let your homeland's historical enemies and a handful of individuals linked to them use you as a tool to continue the war and destruction in Afghanistan and to advance the foul anti-Afghan motives of the Pakistani military and intelligence circles.

Wakil Announces India To Airlift Food to Kabul
BK1503074689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 15 (AFP)—India has agreed to airlift U.N. and bilateral food aid to Kabul, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said here Wednesday. Mr. Wakil told reporters here on his return frpm a

two-week trip to India that the airlift should start "very soon." His statement followed the breakdown of U.N. efforts to airlift food to Kabul from Pakistan, and only a few days after the resumption of flour supplies by plane from the Soviet Union.

Kabul's two million residents have been living on short rations for about three months because of snow and mujahidin attacks which have cut off access routes to the city. Kabul citizens are relying mainly on tree branches and scrub from the surrounding hills for fuel for cooking, and the government has for the first time introduced rationing for non-government workers.

One Ethiopian Airlines plane carrying flour landed here from Pakistan after Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan on February 15. But the U.N. relief effort was forced to halt because of pilot refusals and high airline insurance costs. Two weeks ago the first land convoy of supplies reached the Afghan capital carrying sorely-needed fuel, flour and some artillery pieces from the tiny town of Hayratan on the border with the Soviet Union.

"There will be Indian assistance through United Nations channels and through bilateral (channels)," Mr. Wakil said when asked if India would start a food airlift. "Yes the Indians have accepted, they think there is no barrier. (It will be) very soon," he said.

New Delhi has announced that it had agreed to sent humanitarian aid including food to Afghanistan, adding that teams from the two countries were working out the modalities of the supplies.

Mr. Wakil said there may be further announcements of measures taken by the Indian Government, but declined to say what they might be. "We have full mutual understanding. Our positions are common," he said. The Afghan foreign minister said Kabul and New Delhi had a common desire to end the war in Afghanistan "as fast as possible", especially "in view of the growing interference of Pakistan." "It is of joint interest to India and Afghanistan that peace should prevail in this region," he said. "The only country threatening peace in the region is Pakistan. The arms buildup in Pakistan which is going beyond their needs is posing the greatest threat to the region."

The Soviet-backed Kabul government has accused Pakistan of violating the April 1988 Geneva accords which led to the Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan by continuing to arm and aid Moslem resistance guerrillas called mujahidin. Kabul has also charged that Pakistan had planned, equipped and arranged a current mujahidin offensive on the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, the bloodiest since the Soviet pull-out.

Najibullah, Tanay Tour Kabul City Party Wards

LD1403175889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, accompanied by Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, last night visited a number Kabul city party wards and party detachments. Najibullah drew the attention of party members to their duties.

Delegates Vote In New Cabinet Ministers

LD1403215189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] A general session of the Wolasi Jirgah was held today under its chairman, Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi.

In accordance with the session's agenda, a comprehensive assessment was made of the vote of confidence to the new ministers who were introduced to the Jirgah through a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

The BIA correspodnent reports that after the new ministers entered the hall and after their introduction to the session by Deputy Prime Minister Sarwar Mangal, discussion and debate was then held at this session in a free and democratic atmosphere. Twenty delegates spoke in detail on this issue and they explained the duties of the new ministers under the state of emergency, which was imposed because blatant violations of Afghanistan's independence and national sovereignty have been intensified by the enemies of the state.

The delegates drew the attention of these ministers, in particular the ministers of transport, commerce, and light industries and foodstuffs, to the current situation in Kabul city where people are facing shortages of foodstuffs due to defects in transportation. The delegates urgently asked the relevant departments to undertake immediate action to solve this problem.

The Wolasi Jirgah delegates then, in a free and democatic atmosphere, gave a unanimous vote fo confidence to the following new ministers:

Major General Khalilullah	minister of transport
Mir 'Azmuddin	minister of communications
Burhan Ghiasi	minister of commerce
Sher Jan Mazduryar	minister of civil aviation
'Abdullah Bahar	minsiter of light industries and foodstuffs
Khudaydad Basharmal	minister of education and training
Muhammad Esma'il Danesh	minister of higher and vocational education
Sayyed Amir Zara	minister of public health
Sayyed Akram Paygir	minister of returnees' affairs

'Abdul Ghafur Bahir	minister of Islamic affairs and endowments
Dr Nur Ahmad Bari	minister without portfolio

Dr Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah, then congratulated these ministers on their success on behalf of the delegates, and wished them success in the service of the people and country.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Sarwar Mangal, thanked the delegates for giving a vote of confidence to the new ministers and pledged that they were ready for every sacrifice in serving the country and homeland in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the policy of national reconciliation and in perceiving their major duties under the present circumstances in the country. While denouncing Pakistani militarists' intervention in the territory of Afghanistan, the delegates of the Wolasi Jirgah commended the courageous heroism and brave defense displayed by the Armed Forces in defending Jalalabad city against attacks by armed extremists and their Pakistani supporters. They hoped that action will be taken immediately to transport foodstuffs and other commodities needed by the people in Jalalabad city.

Najibullah Promotes Two Armed Forces Officers

LD1203210689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] In line with esteemed Afghan President Najibullah's decree, the following officers of the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan were promoted in light of their good services and their demonstration of heroism and bravery in defense of the country, its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

1. Muhammad Shafi, son of Mia Muhammad, from the rank of lieutenant colonel to that of brigadier general.

2. Faqir Muhammad, son of Nasrullah, from the rank of lieutenant colonel to that of brigadier general.

Najibullah Endorses Hoarding Prevention Law

LD1503103189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The office of the president reports that esteemed Najibullah, in accordance with paragraph 2, Article 75, of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, endorsed the law on the prevention of hoarding. This law was approved as Resolution No 485 dated 28 February by the Council of Ministers in 18 Articles. It will be enforced henceforth.

Council of Ministers Discusses State Budget

LD1503102289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 14, BAKHTAR—The periodical session of the Council of Ministers, with the participation of deputies of prime minister, ministers as well as chairmen of departments, was held here today presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and vice-president of the supreme council for defence of the country.

At the session, draft of the state budget and socio-economic development plan of the Republic of Afghanistan for the coming Afghan year 1368 (starting March 21, 1989) were discussed.

Sayyed Amanuddin 'Amin, deputy prime minister spoke on the draft of state budget for the year 1368 and Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime minister delivered his speech about the socio-economic development plan of the Republic of Afghanistan for the same year.

Likewise, during the session Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister delivered a report on the improvement of city transportation and Minister of Justice Bashir Baghlani read out a report on twelve legislative documents to the session.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand assessed work of the session and specified duties of the ministries and institutions for full implementation of the state budget in the next Afghan year.

UN Notified on Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

Memoranda 290, 291

LD1103114789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry liaison office delivered memoranda No 290 and 291, citing Pakistan's blatant and repeated violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords, yesterday to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan].

Foreign Ministry note No 290 contains accurate and deocumentary information about the existance of military training camps in (?Khanj) and Jalluzay, which are still operating on Pakistani territory along with hundreds of other military taining camps, contrary to the provision of the Geneva accords. Hundreds of opposition extremists complete military training at these camps and are then sent to Afghan territory.

Foreign Minstry note No 291 draws UNGOMAP's attention to the 9 March rocket attacks on residential areas of Kabul city by the extremist groups protected by Pakistan. One of our innocent compatriots was martyred and another wounded in the extremists' inhumane

action. It was also stated that the extremist groups, by utilizing all-around assistance from Pakistan, are embarking on every inhumane action against our innocent compatriots.

The two notes also state that the Pakistani Government has intensified its intervention and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs since the completion of the withdrawal from Afghanistan of the limited Soviet units.

The UNGOMAP has been asked to investigate the Pakistani violations in accordance with paragraph 7, Document No 4, of the Geneva accords and then to forward the results to the interested parties and the UN secretary general's representative.

Memoranda 292-298

LD1203103489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Six notes from the Afghan Foreign Ministry on blatant and irresponsible violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan's military authorities have been handed to the UN Good Offices Missions in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] office in Kabul by the Foreign Ministry's liaison office. They were notes 292-298.

The Foreign Ministry give detailed information on the deployment of Pakistani Armed Forces in the border area and the deployment of hundreds of Pakistani militia and soldiers armed with modern weapons in Nangarhar Province to participate, directly in the extremists' activities against the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan. It is noted that the deployment of Pakistani militia and soldiers with the extremists for activities against the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan in Nangarhar Province is unprecedented and a blatant violation the Geneva agreements, especially Article 2 of Document 1.

In note 298 the Foreign Ministry requests UNGOMAP to establish permanent surveillance posts in the border areas of Towr Kham, (Teri Mangal), (Nawagai), [word indistinct], and (Ango Chini) to prevent Pakistani militia and soldiers from intruding into Afghan territory. It is also requested to report quickly on its findings to the parties concerned and to the UN secretary general's representative.

Memoranda 298-301

LD1303092189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry liaison office submitted notes 298 through 301 on Pakistan's blatant violations of articles of the Geneva accords to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan]. The Foreign Ministry notes substantiate and precisely enumerate the dispatch of weapons and ammunition convoys from the territory of Pakistan to the Republic of Afghanistan; the supply of these weapons to the opposition extremist groups; the existence of military training camps for extremists inside Pakistan; the arming of extremists by Pakistan with heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles; and other violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan.

It points out that the Pakistani militarists authorities are aware of the training, arming, and dispatch of extremist groups to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, and by dispatching Pakistani militia and soldiers to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan are engaged in direct subversive activities against the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan within the country's border provinces, along with the extremist groups. The Foreign Ministry notes demand that UNGOMAP in Kabul seriously assess the violations detailed in the notes, and inform the parties concerned of the results of its findings.

Memoranda 302-306

LD1303223989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistani violations of the Geneva Accords noted by the Foreign Ministry, were brought to the attention of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] today in protest notes Nos 302 to 306. The Foreign Ministry notes detail 22 cases of open violations by Pakistan which, as a whole, consist of the dispatch of Pakistani militia to Afghanistan's territory; violations by Pakistani military helicopters on Afghanistan's territory in Nangarhar Province; the dispatch of weapons and ammunition convoys to the Republic of Afghanistan; and the existence of camps in Pakistan for the military training of extremists. UNGOMAP has been asked to assess the violations detailed in the Foreign Ministry notes on the basis of paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and inform the relevant parties as soon as possible of its assessments.

India

Chaos in Lok Sabha Over Assassination Report

BK1403164089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha was adjourned thrice amidst noisy scenes and heated exchanges as the opposition members insisted that the House take up for immediate discussion the Thakkar Commission report on Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination. They demanded that the report be laid on the table of the House as a news item based on it has appeared in today's INDIAN EXPRESS. Except for about 20 minutes during question-hour, the opposition members obstructed proceedings of the House for the most part of the day. The first adjournment came during the zero hour, the second in the afternoon and the third around 1615. Before the House adjourned for the day,

the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, suggested that to break the impasse, leaders of all parties should meet in his chamber at 1000 tomorrow morning. The suggestion was accepted by all sides.

As the House met this morning the opposition demanded suspension of the question-hour to take up the discussion on the Thakkar Commission report immediately. The demand was rejected by the House by a voice vote. Pandemonium broke out and unruly scenes were witnessed during the zero hour as the opposition members came to the well of the House and started raising slogans. The speaker told them that under the law passed by the House the government could withhold the report. He said the rules will have to be amended if the report is to be tabled. This did not satisfy the opposition members and they continued to obstruct the proceedings. At this stage some of the ruling party members also walked into the well of the House and the speaker adjourned the House till 1400.

When the House reassembled, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, made it clear that after Parliament passed the Commission of Enquiries Amendment Bill in 1986, the House itself had decided that the Thakkar Commission report will not be tabled. He said the government sticks to this position. He dismissed the INDIAN EXPRESS report as no more than (?plural) writing, slanderous, and politically motivated to defame some in the government. He reminded Mr Ashoke Sen that he was the law minister when the decision was taken not to table the report. He said Mr V.P. Singh was also a member of the Cabinet at that time. Both Mr Sen and V.P. Singh, who were in the House, maintained that they were not shown the Thakkar Commission report at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Political Affairs. Mr Buta Singh told them that the Cabinet has a collective responsibility and they cannot back out from it.

The protesting opposition members had heated exchanges with the Parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, and other members of the ruling party also. As uproar and confusion continued, the deputy speaker, Mr Thambi Durai, adjourned the House for the second time. Throughout the proceedings, the opposition members insisted that as the report has been published in a newspaper Parliament is competent to discuss it. They argued that the matter concerns the security of the nation and is important.

Later, in a statement, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Bhagat, pointed out that the Commission of Enquiries Act was duly amendment by Parliament and a resolution was passed by the passed whereby the Thakkar Commission report was not to be placed on the table of the House. He said any disclosure of the contents of the report would have been prejudicial to the public interest and the security of the country. Mr Bhagat pointed out that Mr Justice Thakkar himself stated in the final report that its content be kept confidential. Mr Bhagat also emphasized that both Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Ashoke Sen were part of th e Cabinet which took decision on the matter. He pointed out that the courts have upheld the validity of the amendment of the Commission of Enquiries Act. The opposition demand for placing the report on the table of the House and discussing it is, therefore, wholly unjustified. Mr Bhagat wondered whether it will not be justifiable to infer that some people in the opposition are irked by the return of R.K. Dhawan [former secretary to Mrs Indira Gandhi] to his new assignment. Are they feeling nervy about it, the minister asked. He said they knew better whether they had made any attempt to win Mr Dhawan on their side and exploit him. The people of the country very well understand the opportunistic game that the opposition is playing to somehow get power.

The leaders of 11 opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha have in a statement demanded immediate disclosure of the Thakkar Commission report. They also demanded a full-fledged discussion on the findings of the commission. They said if the news item published by INDIAN EXPRESS is incorrect, the government must categorically refute it and charge the newspaper with irresponsible journalism. The signatories to the statement are Mr Dipen Ghosh, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Janata; Mr P. Upendra, Telugu Desam; Mr L.K. Advani, BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party]; Mr Virendra Verma, Lok Dal; Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; Mr J.S. Arora, Akali Dal; Mrs Vijaya Chakraborty, AGP [Assam Gano Parishad], Mr T.R. Balu, DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]; Mr Aladi Aruna, AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]; and Mr Tridip Chowdhury, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party].

Opposition Wants Report Tabled

BK1503092589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told the Lok Sabha that detailed investigation by a special team revealed that Mr R.K. Dhawan [former secretary to Mrs Indira Gandhi] was not in any way involved in any crime and conspiracy connected with the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi. He was replying to various points raised by the opposition members who continued to insist that the report of the Thakkar Commission [on Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination] should be laid on the table of the House. Mr Buta Singh said the special team confirmed that Mr R.K. Dhawan is totally innocent. He informed the House that as per the terms of reference of the Thakkar Commission, it was stipulated that its report is to be pre-investigative exercise and the government should get the matter investigated. He said that detailed investigation was carried out by a special team.

The home minister again referred to the observations of Mr Justice Thakkar that the report be kept confidential. He said the government sticks to its decision not to table the report. He said disclosure of the contents of the report will be prejudicial in the public interest and the

security of the country. He also pointed out that the Commission of Enquiries Act was duly amendment by Parliament and the resolution was passed by the House whereby the Thakkar Commission report was not to be placed on the table of the House.

The issue came up in the Lok Sabha immediately after the question hour which sparked off noisy scenes and heated exchanges. Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India], referred to a meeting the leaders of various parties and groups had with the speaker this morning and said since the speaker had expressed his helplessness under the rules, the government should use its discretionary powers and table the contents of the report. He argued this is in the larger public interest. Mr Gupta was supported by several opposition members. They argued that since a news item based on the report has already been published in a newspaper and Mr Buta Singh also referred to it, the House has every right to discuss the report.

The Parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, reiterated that the report will not be tabled in the public interest. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, once again sought cooperation of all sections of the House for its smooth functioning. He said the House should proceed with its normal business. As the opposition members kept on protesting the speaker announced that he adjourns the House till 1400.

Rajya Sabha also witnessed uproarious scenes with opposition pressing for an immediate discussion on the Thakkar Commission report in the Indira Gandhi assassination case. During question hour several opposition members were on their feet demanding immediate taking up of their calling attention motion of which they said they had given a notice. Dr Subramaniam Swamy, Janata, demanded suspension of the question hour. Pandemonium broke out as ruling party members protested against the demand. The chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, informed the House that he had consulted both opposition and the ruling party leaders as well as the government. He said certain documents have been brought to his notice. The government is to give its reaction to him by 1600 today. The chairman said after hearing from the government, he will give his decision on the opposition demand for taking up the issue in the House. This, however, did not satisfy the opposition. They moved him to the well of the House and started arguing with the chair. Dr Swamy's notice for suspension of the question hour was put to vote. It was negated by a voice vote. As the chairman called the first question on the list the opposition protested and started shouting slogans. Nothing could be heard in the din. Noisy scenes continued in the House till lunch break. The opposition remained in the well of the House for most of the time and continued to shout slogans demanding immediate presentation of the Thakkar Commission report. At one stage, some members wanted to place on record some papers which they claim were excerpts from the report. The deputy chairman, Dr Najma Heptullah, observed that nothing will go on the record without the permission of the chair. Amidst scenes, the proceeding in the House went on. The House took up for general budget for 1989-90 for consideration. The ruling party member, Mr Darbara Singh, initiated the discussion.

Opposition Members Suspended

BK1503125589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In the Lok Sabha, most of the opposition members were suspended for the rest of the week. A motion moved for this by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, was adopted by the House by a voice vote. The House also adopted another resolution condemning Mr Arief Mohammad Khan for trying to assault the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, and to snatch papers from her hand as she was about to place a copy of the suspension on the table of the House. [passage omitted]

Later, talking to newsmen, the opposition leaders criticized the suspension of most opposition members in the Lok Sabha. Denying that all of them wanted suspension, they said they were only opposed to suspension of members at random.

17 Killed, 48 Injured in Bomb Blasts in Assam

BK1403124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] In Assam, 17 people were killed and 48 injured in a series of bomb blasts this morning in Bongaigaon bazaar and its neighborhood areas. Two powerful bombs burst in Bongaigaon bazaar, killing 11 people on the spot. Another blast almost at the same time near the BOC [expansion unknown] Gate killed two persons. Four persons succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. The injured persons have been admitted in different hospitals of the town. Senior police official and medical teams have rushed from Guwahati to Bongaigaon.

Sikh Committee Chief Rearrested After Release

BK1503041789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee—Sikh temple management committee] president, Mr G.S. Tohra, detained in Jodhpur, was flown to Amritsar yesterday evening. He has since been remanded to judicial custody till the 7th of next month in connection with another case registered against him in Amritsar. The high-power Ribeiro Committee to review the cases of those 78 Jodhpur undertrials against whom some other criminal cases were still pending has so far reviewed 30 cases. Mr Ribeiro told the AIR [All India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent that out of these, 28 have been released, and some more information has been sought regarding the other two. He said that the committee will again be meeting today to review the cases.

3 Major Akali Dal Factions Unite in Punjab

BK1203125289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Three major factions of the Akali Dal have merged into one with Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi as its president. This was stated in a joint statement by Mr Talwandi and the former chief minister, Mr S.S. Barnala.

Releasing the statement to newsmen in Ludhiana today, the Akali leader, Captain Amrinder Singh, said the factions are Akali Dal-Talwandi, Akali Dal-Longowal and Akali Dal-Mann. He said while Mr Talwandi and Mr Barnala have signed the statement, the consent of Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, now in jail, has been obtained.

Akali Dal-Mann Rejects Merger

BK1303160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Unity efforts among the three factions of the Akali Dal have suffered a serious setback when the Unified Akali Dal [UAD]-Mann faction rejected the merger formula announced in Ludhiana yesterday. The acting chief of the UAD-Mann faction, Baba Joginder Singh, announced the rejection in Jullundur, while Mr Charanjit Singh Walia, member of Parliament, and three other leaders announced the decision in Chandigarh today. They said Mr Mann, who is now in jail, had never agreed to the unity formula. They said they will never accept Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi as president of the merged party.

It may be recalled that the senior Akali Dal leader, Captain Amrinder Singh, issued a statement in Ludhiana yesterday that the three factions headed by Mr Barnala, Mr Talwandi, and Mr Mann have merged into one with Mr Talwandi as president. Mr Barnala has declined to comment on Captain Amrinder Singh's announcement on the merger. He said in Nagpur before leaving for Delhi that he will first verify the details of the announcement.

Meanwhile, Mr Talwandi has announced the cancellation of two parallel meetings of the Akali Dal factions at Amritsar and Khandewal in Sangrur District scheduled for Thursday. Mr Talwandi made this announcement at a news conference in Ludhiana today.

In Punjab, 5 of the 76 Jodhpur undertrials, who were brought to Jullundur, were released today. The cases of remaining undertrials are being processed.

Rajeshwar Rao Reelected CPI General Secretary

BK1403093689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao has been reelected general secretary of the Communist Party of India for the fourth successive term. Mr Indrajit Gupta will also continue to be the party's deputy general secretary. This was decided at a meeting in Calcutta of the newly constituted National Council of the party.

Further Details on Narora Nuclear Plant

BK1403040689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The country has achieved yet another milestone in its plan to harness nuclear energy for economic development. The first unit of the Narora atomic power station [NAPS] has attained criticality. This was announced by the minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, in the Lok Sabha today amid cheers. He said that the nuclear power reactor, the country's seventh, went critical at 1040 [0510 GMT] yesterday morning. Hemant Kumar gives the details:

[Begin Kumar recording] Minutes before 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, scientists set off a nuclear chain reaction and sustained it in one of the two reactors. This is what is broadly meant by an atomic power reactor going critical. India's seventh operational reactor, NAPS-1, has a twin under construction alongside it. Together, they will generate 470 megawatts of electricity, 235 megawatts each. The fully indigenous NAPS-1 burns natural uranium. The fuel is mined, processed, and fabricated in India. Built at a cost of 532 crore rupees, NAPS has some improvements upon existing Indian reactors. The inner reactor wall is made of prestressed steel. It is enfolded by an outer wall of reinforced concrete. The two protective layers will keep any radioactivity from leaking, Dr Sirinivasan [the Atomic Energy Commission Chairman] added. For the next 2 months, scientists will run low-power tests on the reactor. Dr Srinivasan said: A full 6 months later, power will be available on a commercial basis from the Narora's first reactor. The power produced will be shared by member states of the northern electricity region. Dr Srinivasan said NAPS-1 is absolutely safe. [end recording]

Safety has been given prime importance in the design of this power station. This power station also serves as a model for the subsequent reactors of 235 megawatts and the 500-megawatt reactors that are to follow thereafter.

Concern Expressed Over Pakistani Missile Tests

BK0803103189 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 89 p 13

[R.R. Subramanian article: "Pak Missiles: What They Mean"]

[Text] The Director of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), Dr Salim Mehmud, had said in May 1980 that an indigenously built satellite named BADR [expansion unknown] would be launched. The carrier rocket that was to launch this satellite was never mentioned until

news reports appeared in fits and starts in January this year to suggest that Pakistan had developed indigenously or was developing the Renuma and Shapar rockets.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, the Pakistani Army Chief of Staff, had announced while speaking to the officers of the National Defence College, Islamabad, that two missiles, one of range 80 km and the other with range of 300 km, had been successfully testfired from the McVian coast of Baluchistan. These missiles have been appropriately named HATF-1 and HATF-2 after the deadly sword of the Holy Prophet. General Beg is believed to have witnessed the testfirings of the missile which has two stages.

Pakistan's SUPARCO, which is the equivalent of India's ISRO, [Indian Space Research Organization] had General Ziaul Haq as its chairman. After General Ziaul Haq's demise it remains unclear whether it is Ms Benazir Bhutto or General Aslam Beg who occupies that position. Pakistan's military is calling the shots on nuclear weapons. Not for nothing has it been that it is General Aslam Beg and not Ms Benazir Bhutto who also announced that a rocket carrying the payload weighing 150 kg had attained an altitude of 640 km and it had also been recovered on Pakistani territory. It is believed that this rocket was launched from the Sonmiani test range near Karachi as early as May 1988.

It was in May 1988, that US Vice-President Daniel Quayle as Senator had published an up-date on ballistic missile proliferation in the Third World. It was in this update that he had pointed out to the US Congress that a surface-to-surface rocket capable of carrying a payload of 500 kg was about to be launched. It has also been pointed out in this report that this missile may be similar to some Chinese missiles. One feels that it could be the M-11, which is yet to be exported.

India has little reason to be concerned about the HATF-2 before it is deployed in large enough numbers. Similarly, India's ISRO and DRDO [Defense Research and Development Organization] must move in tandem towards the development of ballistic missiles. The West German private company OTRAG which had set up a testing range in Zaire in 1978 and then moved to Brazil and then Libya is believed to have helped Pakistan develop rockets which have been christened Shapar and Renuma. According to Gen. Aslam Beg one of the rockets that launched the payload weighing 150 kg and was recovered attained an altitude of 640 km had an injection velocity of 9.6 kg per second, not enough to put a satellite into an orbit around the earth. This will in all probability be the next step, and for this reason, India too must keep in step by launching the AGNI, ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] and PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] through successful test firings and then move into their conversion into ballistic missiles that can deliver payloads onto a target.

Pakistan's strategic relationship with China could well extend to the production of intermediate range ballistic missiles (IRBM's) as the next step. China has already transferred IRBM's to Saudi Arabia, the desert kingdom with which Benazir's predecessor had strong ties. There can be no doubt that the metallurgist Dr A.Q. Khan and Dr Salim Mehmud are working towards a very definitive goal, namely of matching if not overtaking India in the missile era.

In short, then, India must not take Pakistan's posturing for peace at face value since the missile age has come to the sub-continent and for this reason adequate deterrence must prevail. Benazir in Beijing had expressed concern over India's nuclear submarine in the Indian Ocean. What about Chinese nuclear submarines?

Are they to be considered by Pakistan's military for procurement through lease initially? It is conceivable that the competition between the two countries—India and Pakistan—could reach the stage wherein each of them may eventually contemplate purchase in several numbers or attempt to develop them indigenously. Looking into the 1990s, this seems likely, as the competition between these two countries has already reached the stage where each country visualises that any move by one is detrimental to the other's security.

Pakistan's missile programme has graduated to the stage where a second test firing has occurred and Prime Minister Bhutto was shown watching it on television. What is significant is the "blow hot", "blow cold" strategy that she is adopting towards India, be it the Siachen Glacier, Kashmir or the nuclear issue. Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the brilliant metallurgist who heads Project 706 at Kahuta, is actively involved in the missile project.

Benazir's father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto brought A.Q. Khan to Pakistan in 1975 and there is reason to believe therefore that Benazir will eventually reward him with the Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) presently headed by Mr Munir Ahmed Khan, for whom Qadeer Khan has made no secret of his dislike. What will be of significance for India's security in the 1990's would be the extent of Chinese collaboration with Pakistan on missile development. There have been reports in the Western Press that tend to suggest that Qadeer is to visit China very soon. This should come as no surprise largely because of Chinese interest in the gaseous centrifuse technique. There is, however, another aspect and that relates to ballistic missiles of longer range, say beyond 1,000 kms.

China is presently readying for export another missile in the M series—the M-9 which has a range of 600 kms. It is conceivable that A.Q. Khan may have already obtained an access to the designs of this missile, Mr Quayle in his update to the US Congress in May 1988 had already made references to such a development. There is another development and that is in regard to the procurement of the CSS-2 intermediate range ballistic

missile by Saudi Arabia, around the time the first test firing of the Pakistani rocket took place, namely, April 25, 1988. India does not face as yet a "missile gap" in the arena of ballistic missiles but the time is not far off when such a gap may well become a reality. To avoid such a reality one must have several test firings, say as many as six of the "AGNI" and other in the SLV [Satellite Launch Vehicle] series. Even through demonstration deterrence must be made to prevail.

India's defence modernisation cannot slacken in the wake of Pakistan's thrust into the missile arena. One cannot remain content with the mere knowledge that the scientists of the ISRO and DRDO can develop missiles, one must deploy them for demonstrative deterrence of both Pakistan and China.

Iran

Cease-Fire Violation 'Categorically' Denied

LD1503092389 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Iran today categorically denied Iraqi charges that Iranian forces had violated the ceasefire along the Iran-Iraq borders.

An informed official at the Armed Forces Command Headquarters in an interview with IRNA accused Iraq of repeatedly violating the ceasefire regulations along the borders.

He said the Iraqis had increased military activities over the last few days particularly along the southern fronts, adding that the United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was also aware of these violations. He said Iraqi troops at 21:00 hours local time (17:30 GMT) on Monday opened fire on Iranian positions in Shalamcheh region.

Iranian troops first abstained from responding and informed the UNIIMOG officials but the Iraqis continued the shelling extending it to the port city of Khorramshahr at 22:00 GMT. This forced the Iranians to return fire and the whole event was observed by the U.N. peace-keeping forces. Five Iranian troops were wounded in the exchange of fire.

He then listed 14 major cases of ceasefire violations by the Iraqi forces (between Feb. 20 and March 10) which he said had been reported to the UNIIMOG officials. According to the list at least 11 Iranian forces were wounded and five martyred in several sectors by Iraqi fire.

Paper Urges ICO To Press for Resolution 598

LD1503092489 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—An Iranian daily today urged the regional political organisations to make efforts for a rapid implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, THE TEHRAN TIMES said, can certainly wield highly effective leverage towards this end.

The English daily asked the OIC to embark on shaping a committee comprised of the foreign ministers of member nations with the aim to speed up the implementation of at least two articles of the resolution, namely the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders and the exchange of the prisoners of war.

The daily in an editorial further noted that "the military and political situation at many points along the Iran-Iraq border is highly explosive."

The Iraqi violations of August 20 ceasefire were also notified by the paper which believed that "Iraq is out to retard Iran's reconstruction plans at least in the border provinces." Furthermore, war-related tensions can also heighten a sense of insecurity within the country, it added.

The TEHRAN TIMES called on all the countries and organisations involved, particularly the Security Council, "not to leave any stone unturned to press on with the implementation of Resolution 598."

Daily Warns ICO of Western Media Influences

LD1503093289 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Wednesday said the foreign ministers meeting of the 46-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia was crucial as regards the grave issues facing the Islamic world. It warned the participants of attempts by Western media to influence the trend of the session.

The editorial said at the forefront of the subjects is the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses," the Arab-Zionist conflict and the recognition of the Afghan mujahidin interim government.

It accused the Western press of trying to pre-empt a possible adoption of resolutions detrimental to Western interests.

Since the issue of "The Satanic Verses" is the most important issue in the agenda of the conference the Western news networks have played up the issue. This means. [sentence as received] "The West is worried to its teeth of a possible Iranian coup in this year's OIC meeting," it said.

Based on past experiences Saudi Arabia and Egypt might have been instructed to push the Rushdie affair to sidelines.

The paper lashed out at Western media, especially the news agencies owned by Zionist publishers for its prejudice against the Muslims and distortion of Islamic issues.

Therefore it urged the participants to ponder more deeply on Islamic wisdom and justice and deprive the Western media of any chance to influence the session and its outcome.

"The Western media's self-proclaimed role in justifying Salman Rushdie's apostasy is another proof of its religious bigotry and disregard for the values held sacred by the world's one billion Muslims," concluded the paper.

Deputies Urge IPU Response to Rushdie Novel
LD1503115289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] More than 170 Majlis deputies have sent a letter to the 81st IPU [Inter-Parliamentary Union] Conference. In that letter, they described the conspiracies of global arrogance against Islam, in particular the publication of "The Satanic Verses," and asked the conference to adopt a suitable and appropriate position vis-a-vis that conspiracy.

While wishing success to the delegations participating in that conference in Budapest, the letter stated: As global arrogance has had a long-standing enmity against the ideological beliefs of the world masses and divine religions—particularly against the sacred religion of Islam—and in line with this illogical policy it has recently supported the publication of a book titled "The Satanic Verses" which was written by a mercenary author dependent on the British Government and in which the divine prophets—especially the highly esteemed prophet of Islam who has more than 1 billion human followers—have been seriously insulted, the Majlis considers an insult against the sacred character of Islam's prophet to be an insult against all divine prophets and all human sanctities.

For this reason, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was assigned the task of severing all political and diplomatic ties with the colonialist Government of England. It is expected that the 81st IPU Conference should understand the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and thereby adopt a suitable and appropriate position vis-sa-vis that issue, and show that the real representatives of the people the world over respect the sanctities of [word indistinct] and the followers of other divine religions, and that they do not remain indifferent in the face of such blatant crime.

Western Media 'Distorts' Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks
LD1403181489 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Libyan Ambassador to Tehran Ahmad Embirash today refuted foreign media reports on Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's recent remarks, as pure distortion. "Some sections of the imperialist mass media are scheming to sow doubt and hostility," he told IRNA.

Foreign media had quoted Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as saying that "it is a big disaster if a ruler takes power under name of religion."

In fact, claimed the ambassador, what the Libyan leader meant were certain overt and covert organisations which were using religion for political ends.

Libya respects the right of elections in any country, but some Western media reports have misquoted Al-Qadhdhafi's remarks as a veiled reference to the Islamic Republic of Iran. "We respect the Islamic revolution of Iran and its leadership," he reiterated.

On Tripoli's stance on the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" Embirash termed the book as part of a "voluminous crusader-Zionist plot" against Islam which has faced a sound defeat. "Libya will never allow entry of the book on its soil because it contradicts principles of the people's belief."

Elsewhere Embirash denied Western media reports that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had termed the furor over "The Satanic Verses" as "a political campaign." Colonel al-Qadhdhafi did not used those words, he said.

Last week, in a meeting in Tripoli with Iran's special envoy Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali, the Libyan leader had voiced support for Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [edict] against British author Salman Rushdie. The apostate deserves to be executed, the colonel had said.

Tehran TV Commentary on Relations With UK
NC1003223589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1515 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpts] The crisis in Iranian-British relations culminated in a severance of ties between the two countries following the publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and its extensive and firm support by the West. This came after the expiration of the grace period accorded by the Islamic Majlis to the British Government calling for a condemnation of book and an apology to the world's Muslims to compensate for these anti-Muslim efforts.

This incident and the severance of relations between Iran and Great Britain clearly proved that the issue of "The Satanic Verses" was not merely a cultural issue, as the Western countries claimed. Moreover, their support for the book and its publication was not based solely on freedom of thought and expression, but was a concerted campaign by imperialism and Zionism against Islam and an onslaught on the beliefs of the world's Muslims, along with insult and denigration. The support and insistence by the West and the British Government in publishing "The Satanic Verses" took place when the representatives of the Penguin publishing house in India had long before warned the British Government of repercussions.

Despite these warnings, the West and the British Government deliberately continued supporting the book, and despite the fact that the British authorities admitted that the book was extremely derisive to the beliefs of the world's Muslims, they evaded the issue instead of taking an official position against the book's affrontery and offensiveness.

Thus, from the beginning of "The Satanic Verses" incident, the British Government—in view of its major role in the publication—endeavored, more than all others, to incite Western governments and the EEC against Iran. The British politicians, who thought that in view of its reconstruction needs, Iran was eager to cooperate with Western governments and to use their economic and technological assistance, tried to capitalize on this opportunity, using it as a lever to extract concession from Iran. They tried to take advantage of the issue by applying pressure for their own benefit and to end the incident with Iran retreating from its stance. [passage omitted]

The categorical, revolutionary measure by the Islamic Majlis snatched the initiative from Western hands. The Western politicians and authorities then attempted to terminate this state of affairs, this crisis in Iranian-British relations, by diplomatic and propagandistic means. For this purpose, the British authorities immediately announced, after the Majlis' approval of its bill, that they do not favor breaking relations with Tehran. They asked all governments, especially the Moscow government, to take measures to resolve the problem and ask Iran to change its position.

Simultaneous with these political and diplomatic overtures, the West's propaganda machinery, especially the BBC, initiated efforts—by employing the old weapons of human rights and freedom—against Iran to create an international atmosphere of animosity, and also to project the consequences of a severance of Iranian-British relations to the detriment of Iran. When the British did not perceive any shift in the Iranian Government's position or views, they sought to meet the demands of the Islamic Majlis to a certain extent by the usual diplomatic remarks. This was why the British prime minister and foreign secretary said they understood that the book "The Satanic Verses" was insulting to Muslims and tried to distance themselves from Salman Rushdie's book.

Even though the announcement of such a position was a small step toward complying with the demands of the Islamic Majlis, Westerners did not wish to show any more flexibility in their principles and condemn "The Satanic Verses" as the price for restoring ties with Iran. This positon clearly proves how rigid Westerners are and how much importance they attach to their principles and motives of negating Islam and the religious tenets of today's world and opposing the Islamic nature of the revolution as well as the Iranian system.

it was under such circumstances that the Islamic Republic took steps to sever ties with Great Britain. This act was aimed at defending and preserving Islam. It is on this basis that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is treading a new path which is considered a strategic policy of the Islamic world in general. [passage omitted]

If in the past issues such as a colonialist record, an intransigent hostility against the revolution, overt collusion with the United States, espionage activities in Iran, participation in economic embargoes, and political-military pressure against Iran in the course of 8 years of war were grounds for suspicion, now a campaign against the world of Islam and efforts to cast aspersions on Islamic values and sanctities have been added to the list. It is for this reason that issues be given greater consideration. Our foreign policy should forge ahead on a path for which basic principles have been formulated so that it can keep in view the interests of the Islamic world and safeguard them.

This costly experience affirms that in the compilation and formulation of strategy, a policy delineating relations between Iran and the West should be based on principles and values which do not simply collapse in the face of any changes in circumstances and the West's tactics and should not cause a clash between diplomatic actions and revolutionary ideals or religous beliefs.

Moreover, one must pay attention to this general principle that despite the West's claim of freedom of expression or thought, it will never be able to view the Islamic bias of the Iranian revolution and the tenets of the Muslims of the world from a perspective of reverence and respect.

Editorial Urges Severing Economic Ties With UK

LD1303064989 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Monday called on Iran to sever economic ties with Britain stating that a number of country's officials are backing the idea.

It said the British Government is likely to maintain its economic profits in Iran. "Iran engaged in its economic construction plans happens to be a lucrative market for Europe," said the paper adding the European countries cannot ignore economic opportunities available in Iran.

On the contrary there is a fierce competition among European companies to win the new markets in Iran. "That is what pinches London," said the article adding that British exports to Iran amounted to dls. 528 million last year.

Iran does not need to limit purchase of modern technology to British industries, it said, adding other European countries and Japan were even preferable.

The article said severance of diplomatic ties with London may make it adopt a negative stand towards Iran's legitimate call for implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 at the Security Council.

With all these in mind, it concluded, it would be better for Iran to sever economic ties with Britain and deprive it of any economic advantages.

Bulgaria's Balev, Khristov Arrive in Tehran

LD1103201189 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A high-powered Bulgarian delegation led by Politburo member Milko Balev arrived here today, and was welcomed by agriculture minister and several Majlis deputies.

Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov and several parliamentarians are accompanying Balev, who also doubles as head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Bulgarian National Assembly.

"We will discuss Tehran-Sofia cooperation for the next ten years," Balev said at the Mehrabab International Airport.

Khristov who heads the Bulgarian team for the Iran-Bulgaria joint economic commission meet, is to hold talks with Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari who represents Iran at the commission.

Bilateral trade exchanges between the two countries has greatly increased since the Islamic revolution' victory (1979). Iran exports crude oil to Bulgaria in return for agro-industrial goods, and last year the volume of the trade exchanges was about 500 million dollars.

Delegation Meets With Kalantari

LD1203120989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristov, accompanied by members of the Bulgarian economic-parliamentary delegation, held their first round of talks this morning with the Iranian head of the joint economic commission and minister of agriculture, Mr Kalantari.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Khristov expressed his government's readiness to expand cooperation, participate in development projects, and complete the implementation of all articles of the fifth round of meetings of the joint commission. He added that Bulgaria is prepared to purchase Iranian non-oil products, whether they are industrial or agricultural goods, and is also ready to participate in the construction of small- and medium-sized hydroelectric power stations, agricultural processing plants, in the expansion of cold storage facilities, and in the production of construction material.

According to the same report, the minister of agriculture responded by saying that during its period of reconstruction Iran will cooperate with all those countries that helped it during the war and added: We are prepared to expand our relations within the framework of the bilateral commission and also in various aspects of agriculture, including changing the irrigation system, the agriculture processing plant, and general industrial cooperation with Bulgaria.

Bulgaria Bans Rushdie Book

LD1303094189 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—The visiting member of the Bulgarian Politburo Milko Balev in a meeting with head of Majlis' Foreign Relations Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali Sunday assured him that the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses" will not be printed and distributed in Bulgaria.

Balev who is also the head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Bulgarian parliament arrived here Saturday heading a delegation.

He called for formation of Iran-Bulgaria parliamentary friendship groups and stressed expansion of bilateral economic and cultural ties.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali also stressed closer cooperation between parliaments of the two countries in the Interparliamentary Union conferences.

On the Western cultural plot against Islam (publication of "The Satanic Verses"), Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali said Iran will not tolerate the slightest insult to its religious sanctities.

Khristov Meets Industries Minister

LD1303140189 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Obstacles facing a bilateral letter of understanding were discussd by visiting Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov and Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi, here Monday.

The issues will be looked into again during a session of the joint economic commissuion to be held here within the next two months, the two decided.

N. oavi and Khristov reiterated the expansion of industrial and economic relations. [passage omitted]

Khristov, Larijani Hold Talks

LD1303205189 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Bulgaria's Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov confered with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani here Monday. The two sides placing stress on mutual relations studied long-term cooperation between Iran and Bulgaria. Larijani described Iran's relations with socialist countries as "growing". [passage omitted]

Balev, Khristov Continue Visit

LD1403095389 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The visiting Bulgarian Minsiter of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov discussed ways of expansion of Iran-Bulgaria trade ties with Iran's acting Minister of Commerce 'Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji here Tuesday morning.

They also talked about export of Iranian non-oil goods to Bulgaria including mini buses, automobiles, lift trucks, concentrated metals and cotton.

Both sides agreed on taking measures to maintain the current volume of bilateral trade and also establish barter trade. It was decided that experts of the two countries study possible fields of cooperation and present proposals before the next joint ministrial session.

Khristov arrived here Saturday as a member of a delegation led by Politburo [member] and head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Bulgarian National Assembly Milko Balev. Meanwhile Balev visited historical monuments of the Iranian ancient city of Esfahan Monday.

During his one-day stay in Esfahan Balev met with Esfahan Governor General Gholam Hoseyn Karbaschi in which he condemned publication of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses." He said his country will not allow the book to be printed and distributed in Bulgaria because of the respect his country held for the Muslim minority.

Khristov Meets Oil Minister

LD1403182989 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Iran is ready to export gas to Bulgaria, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told visiting Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov today.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Oil Ministry the Tehran-Sofia oil and gas cooperation will be worked out during Aqazadeh's expected visited to Bulgaria. The two sides also stressed further expansion of mutual ties in the meeting. [passage omitted]

Balev Meets With Khamene'i

LD1403185189 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The Islamic Republic favors relations with countries with which the Iranian people have no unpleasant memories, President 'Ali Khamene'i said Tuesday.

In a meeting with head of the Foreign Committee of Bulgaria's National Assembly Milko Balev, Khamene'i called for expansion of Tehran-Sofia ties in various fields.

Balev, describing the prospect of mutual cooperation as "bright" felt assured that Bulgaria could participate in Iran's reconstruction projects. He also submitted President Khamene'i a message from his Bulgarian counterpart Todor Zhivkov. [passage omitted]

Balev Confers With Velayati

LD1403222589 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Sofia ties and other issues of mutual interest were discussed by Bulgarian Politburo Member Milko Balev and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

The Bulgarian official adverting to Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", which has shocked the Muslim world, said he will never allow any book which hurts Muslim feelings to be imported, published or translated in Bulgaria. Bulgaria is home to more than one million Muslims.

Balev referring to U.N. Resolution 598 said that Sofia is for full enforcement of the resolution, a stance, he added, "the Bulgarian leadership has always reiterated."

Velayati replied that Iran's delegation to the foreign ministerial meet of the 46-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Riyadh, is seriously following up the issue of the blashphemous book written by the Indian-born English apostate. Iran's intense lobbying has resulted in the re-inclusion of the Satanic affair on the agenda of the 4-day meet, which opened Monday.

On Afghanistan, Velayati said "the Islamic Republic believes that only a government truly representing all different ethnic groups in Afghanistan should be formed in Kabul." He added that no other foreign forces should replace the Soviets in that landlocked Muslim country.

On the Iran-Iraq peace talks, Velayati said that Baghdad was procrastinating implemention of the resolution. "They (Iraqis) should have withdrawn after the ceasefire, but have refused to do so and this is major hurdle in the peace process," he pointed. [passage omitted]

Japan To Scrap Funding for Petrochemical Project
OW1403045189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Mitsui and Co. said Tuesday Iran has agreed in principle to scrap their 700 billion yen joint project to build a petrochemical complex in southern Iran.

An official at Mitsui, the second biggest Japanese trader, said senior officials will meet Iranian representatives, possibly in May, to discuss details of the scrapping of the petrochemical complex in Bandar-e Khomeyni, which was heavily damaged by Iraqi air raids during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war. The war ended last August.

The accord was reached in Tehran earlier this month between Hiroshi Watada, president of Iran Chemical Development Co.—the Mitsui-led Japanese investment channel for the project—and Ahmad Rahgozar, chairman of Iran's state-run National Petrochemical Co., said the official, who requested anonymity.

High on the agenda at the forthcoming session will be how to share the costs incurred in the project since 1985, when the Japanese side halted all capital investment in it, and how Japan can cooperate in the postwar reconstruction of Iran, the official said.

The Tehran talks were the third such session since December, when Iran sent a delegation to Tokyo to negotiate the resumption of the joint project.

The Japanese side insisted on ending the project, which was 85 percent complete when work was halted due to the war, since resuming it would require at least the same amount of expenditure as that incurred up to the time it was abandoned.

The two sides signed an agreement in 1971 to construct the major petrochemical complex to produce polyethylene and other petrochemical products, using gas obtained in the area.

Petroleum Minister Comments on Visit to Algeria
LD1103184689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Aqazadeh, our country's petroleum minister, returned to Tehran last night after an official visit to Algeria in which he spoke with officials in that country. In an interview with our reporter on his return, he said that in meetings with Algerian officials, discussions were held about the world oil situation and the outlook for the expansion of mutual industrial and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Stressing the importance of the consolidation and maintenance of OPEC unity and the implementation of that organization's latest decisions, the two sides were in close agreement on OPEC's future meeting. He added that it was also decided that a joint commission meeting of Iranian and Algerian oil and economic experts should be held in Tehran.

We remind you that at the end of the talks between Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh and the Algerian energy and petrochemical industries minister a joint press communique was issued which consisted of the two countries' shared views on OPEC issues and mutual cooperation in the fields of industry and commerce. In the communique, the two countries' strong adherence to the decisions of the last OPEC conference about the achievement of an $18 per barrel price level was confirmed. Approval was also expressd with regard to the decisions of non-OPEC producers to reduce production to consolidate prices and attain stability in the market.

In the communique, Iran and Algeria also announced their inclination to expand relations, especially in the oil, gas, petrochemical, and related products industries, in a framework beneficial to both countries.

Velayati Confers With Afghan Mujahidin Leader
LD1403220189 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—A top Afghan mujahidin leader today briefed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest success of the mujahidin in their fight against the Kabul regime.

Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, leader of the Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami (The Islamic Revolution Movement), an independent group, also thanked the Islamic Republic for backing Afghan Muslims over the past decade.

Velayati replied that the future government of Aghanistan should represent all Afghan Muslims or else the enemies would get the chance to sow discord among mujahidin.

The Peshawar based, 7-party Pashto speaking alliance, has hastily formed an interim government leaving out several major ethnic groups who hold large parts of Afghanistan, especially the Iran-based eight-party coalition.

Iran has time and again warned that ignoring the rights of other groups is not a wise policy and detrimental to Afghanistan's solidarity after a decade of successful resistance.

Mawlawi also voiced support for Imam Khomeyni's fatwah for execution of Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses." The fatwah is just and in accordance with Islamic laws, he said.

Commentary on Importance of Yaqub Khan's Visit
LD1103174989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] This morning Mr Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan, the Pakistani foreign minister, arrived in Tehran in order to exchange views on regional and international developments. The continuous meetings between officials of the two countries in Tehran and Islamabad in order to study current developments that are the result of special circumstances are, in the view of political observers, highly important and sensitive.

In this connection, the Pakistani foreign minister described the time and the occasion of his visit to Iran as sensitive and added that the aim of this visit is to deal with the issue of Afghanistan prior to the convening of the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries, as well as other issues of interest to Iran and Pakistan.

At the same time, it is said that in the meetings between the Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers, which started this morning, the issue of the publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," in which the author and publishers have insulted and profaned the sanctities of more than 1 billion Muslims, will also be discussed.

As the two countries have similar views on many regional issues, especially on Afghanistan, it is expected that the collaboration of the two countries in this field will lead to the solution of some political differences between various Afghan groups, which will also ensure the future interests of Afghanistan. This issue, one of the most important topics of discussion between the officials of the two countries, is of great importance in view of the formation of the consultative assembly of the mujahidin by the seven-party coalition in Peshawar, and the formation of the provisional government which has to include all the fighting, Muslim Afghan groups.

In the same connection, media sources say that Pakistan wants the Muslim mujahidin stationed in Iran to also take part in the provisional government of the mujahidin who convened their first cabinet meeting yesterday, Friday [10 March], inside Afghanistan, near the Pakistani border.

In view of the possibility that this government will be recognized by international organizations and countries, it is vital that it be comprehensive and that all the fighting, Muslim Afghan groups who have been effective in the 9-year-long struggle of the Afghan nation against the occupiers participate. Therefore, quoting political analysts in Islamabad, it is said that Pakistan will postpone the recognition of the provisional government of the mujahidin until that government is transferred to Afghanistan's territory and until Iranian support is guaranteed.

Ever since the beginning of the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces, the Islamic Republic of Iran was the only country that emphasized the need for the continuation of the liberation struggles of the Afghan mujahidin until final victory and adopted a principled position regarding the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces, the nonreplacement of other arrogant forces for the Soviet forces, the honorable return of Afghan refugees, and the preservation of the Islamic and nonaligned status of Afghanistan.

In view of the similarity of views of Iran and Pakistan regarding the issue of Afghanistan, Afghan mujahidin, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, must cooperate fully with one another for the sake of the reconstruction of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet forces and the establishment of a government in keeping with the wishes of the people of that country. At the present sensitive juncture, the achievement of this important aim requires the unity and collaboration of all Afghan people and mujahidin, and in the new phase of the struggle this unity can guarantee Afghanistan's independence and freedom.

Supreme Judicial Council Identifies Priorities
LD1403224689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Musavi-Ardabili, chief justice of the Supreme Court, announced in a press, radio, and television interview today that the policy of judicial power in the reconstruction phase of the country will consist of establishing security in society and cracking down on drug traffickers, outlaws, gangs engaging in corruption, armed robbers, and bandits, and those who disrupt law and order. He said: With the formation of the Supreme Judicial Council's office for pursuing these cases, sensitive files will be dealt with quickly. Moreover, in order to deal with these kinds of files in areas that lack a full judicial establishment, mobile courts have been set up.

The chief justice of the Supreme Court, pointing to the confiscation of the property of the Taghuts [evil ones connected with the last regime] said: Some of the Taghuts' wealth and property which, on the order of the courts, fall under the sentence of confiscated properties, will be placed at the disposal of the respected families of martyrs, POW's, and those missing in action, to be used to create jobs and secure housing. He also said: Through coordination with the prime minister, parts of the large buildings which have been confiscated and are suitable for students' lodgings, will be placed at the disposal of universities and centers for higher education. The government will also use the value of these kinds of buildings to secure homes for the respected families of martyrs. Regarding an article in the law on combating surchargers and hoarders, the chief justice said: On the basis of that law, the responsibility for attending to issues such as surcharging will rest with the revolution courts and prosecutors, and the government is responsible for dealing with offenses committed by units which are affiliated to the government.

Continuing this interview, Musavi-Ardabili described the policies that have been formulated on judicial power since the latest message from the imam of the ummah, and said: On the basis of this policy planning, the duration of time for attending to judicial cases in courts has dropped substantially, and during the 2 months since the implementation of this policy, a large number of cases which, due to the observance of normal procedure, remained unattended for long periods in the courts, have now attended to.

Kho'iniha Sends Letter to Judges

NC1503101689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Prosecutor-General Musavi-Kho'iniha has sent a letter to the judges presiding over courts of justice and public prosecution in which he offers advice necessary for the better solution of judiciary matters.

In this letter the prosecutor general refers to the fact that during the 10 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution and despite efforts to improve the courts of justice, basic and major problems still exist. He describes the (?problems) stemming from difficulties in the judicial management system as the reason for the division of duties of the Supreme Judicial Council members. Referring to the responsibilities of court matters, public prosecutions, the disciplinary courts and prosecutions, the judges and the Supreme Court prosecutors assigned to the prosecutor general, the prosecutor general praises the sincerity of the large majority of judges and judiciary employees. He points out that the establishment of the Islamic justice system and justice as a whole are not possible without the absolute sovereignty of shar'ia principles and divine (?commandments) on the one hand, and judges who believe in the sovereignty and worldwide nature of the Islamic system and its divine teachings and sincerely recognize the fully qualified rule of the jurisconsult on the other hand. These judges conform with the ideals and values of the Islamic revolution in a manner appropriate for a revolutionary society and with a hezbollahi spirit, believing that Iran's Islamic revolution is the uprising of the oppressed against the arrogant and their minions. These judges also try, on the basis of this belief, to make the court of justice the haven for the barefooted ones and those who have suffered, and to disappoint those who live in palaces and who have throughout history trampled on the rights of the weak. These judges believe that the Islamic revolution of Iran embodies the struggle and war between the poor and the rich and will not allow the courts of justice to be turned into the province of godless capitalists and wealthy people without problems.

In another part of the letter the prosecutor general refers to uncommitted and (?corrupt) lawyers and pitiless experts as one of the problems leading to the people's and society's corruption. He expresses hope that with the cooperation of the committed judges, lawyers and experts who think of nothing but money and wordly things and who think of the issues of good and evil, of the oppressed and the oppressor, and of the poor and the rich only in relation to ensuring their own interests and material ends will be removed from the courts of justice and trials.

Referring to the need to study all matters concerning the courts and public prosecution and to the need to evaluate, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the activities and behavior of judiciary officials, and by asserting the intention to send inspection teams to all the country's cities and corners as soon as possible, the prosecutor general said he hopes that all the judiciary and non-judiciary associates—and especially the heads of courts and of public prosecution offices—will, in addition to expressing their views and propounding proposals in any field, assist the teams that will be sent to their areas in their mission.

In another part of the letter, the prosecutor general refers to the need for issuing the final sentences on that group of defendants whose cases are sometimes left in abeyance for years. Pointing to his holiness the imam's concern about this and his emphasis on the need to resolve this problem as soon as possible, the prosecutor general writes: Therefore, all respectable heads of the courts of justice and public prosecution offices are dutybound to mobilize all judges so that they can quickly attend to the dossiers of prisoners during their office hours and, if necessary, after office hours, and ihand down decisions on them. If they meet with any difficulty in carrying out this duty, they can inform the prosecutor's office.

The letter concludes: While stating the belief that safeguarding the respect of the judges and of the judiciary system is a must for a sound judicial system and the fact that part of this duty rests on the shoulders of the respectable judges themselves and contingent up on their correct behavior, I wish to state clearly that any action that hinders the judges' independence and any kind of pressure that diverts the vital issue of justice from its correct and canonical process will be prevented.

Tehran University Women Protest Headdress Ban

NC1503110289 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] A group of Muslim female students of Tehran University organized a demonstration today in protest of the law which bans the use of the headdress by female students in universities. The headdress is a part of the Islamic attire. Our correspondent reports that the Muslim female students gathered in front of the Islamic Majlis, chanting "Islam is our school," "The headdress is our protection," and "The headdress is the sign of women's freedom." Chanting slogans which communicated their feelings, the Muslim students voiced their disgust against the law banning the use of headdress in Turkey.

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects Kabul Radio Allegations

BK1503025889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman rejected the baseless and false allegations broadcast by Kabul Radio which stated that 10 Pakistani and U.S. advisers have been killed in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan and that 500 Pakistani forces have been killed near Jalalabad.

Pakistan has also rejected the protest made by the Kabul regime saying that 400 Pakistani soldiers entered Nangarhar Province. Another allegation has also been rejected which claimed that two Pakistani helicopters ferried chemical weapons and several foreign advisers to Ghaziabad Farm.

Delhi Radio Notes Influx of Afghan Refugees

BK1503042989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The Pakistani authorities say about 17,000 refugees have crossed the border in the last few weeks since the battle for Jalalabad intensified. They have called an emergency meeting of all voluntary agencies to deal with the crisis.

30,000 Refugees Arrive

BK1503064289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0623 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 15 (AFP)—Pakistan authorities have called an urgent meeting here Wednesday of the main humanitarian organisations operating in the country following the arrival of some 30,000 new Afghan refugees fleeing fighting in Jalalabad, informed sources said. The meeting will bring together representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-governmental organisations.

Fierce fighting has been raging for the past week between mujahidin guerrillas and Kabul government forces holding Jalalabad, a key city between the capital and Afghanistan's border with Pakistan 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.

Almost 30,000 refugees, including women, children and old people, have already crossed into Pakistan since the fighting began, fleeing shelling and rocket fire from both sides, as well as Afghan Air Force bombing. Resistance sources said Tuesday that the military authorities in Jalalabad had asked the population to evacuate the besieged city, which numbers between 100,000 and 200,000 inhabitants.

Apart from the UNHCR and UNICEF, organisations summoned to Wednesday's meeting in this border town include groups based in the United States, France, West Germany, Sweden and Britain. The aim of the meeting is to coordinate aid efforts and consider how best to deal with the latest influx of refugees. More than three million refugees have crossed into Pakistan since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, and live in camps located near Peshawar and Quetta.

The latest fighting flared after Soviet forces ended their withdrawal from the country on February 15 in line with an international agreement.

Industrial Cooperation Discussed With USSR

BK1403155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The possibilities of increasing Pakistani-Soviet cooperation in the industrial field were discussed at a meeting between a Soviet delegation and the minister of state for production, Raja Shahid Zafar, in Islamabad today. The Pakistani minister told the Soviet delegation that Pakistani-Soviet cooperation in the fields of oil exploration, power generation, and the steel industry has been a good experience in the past and that substantial prospects still exist for cooperation in various fields.

The Soviet delegation leader, Dr (Viktor Kowtovskiy), expressed the hope that during the upcoming visit of the Pakistani minister of state for production to Moscow, new areas of cooperation will be identified.

Sharif To End Confrontation With Government

BK1403040489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has said that the Punjab chief minister's decision to end the confrontation with the federal government is a step in the right direction. Talking to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Lahore, he expressed the hope that the Punjab government will now revise its earlier decision to reject the 5-point cooperation program of the federal government. He said that the federal government has already offered to cooperate unconditionally with provincial governments on control of crimes, drug trafficking, price rise, illegal arms, and developmental programs irrespective of various other engagements of the provincial governments.

Bhutto on 'Internal Matter'

BK1403083089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said the present political situation in the Punjab is an internal matter of the province and the federal government does not want to interfere in it.

Talking to newsmen at the Lahore Airport this morning, the prime minister said the federal government wanted to cooperate with all the provinces and to ensure that these governments remain stable and work in peace for

the welfare of the people. The federal government would do everything to facilitate the provincial governments in the discharge of their responsibilities.

The prime minister said the provincial governments in Baluchistan, Sind, and the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and the federal government itself were working satisfactorily. However, there is some problem in the Punjab. She hoped that politicians in the Punjab Province—whether they belong to the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] or the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]—would cooperate with each other as the running of the provincial matters was their responsibility. They had to safeguard the honor, life, and property of the people.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that democracy has been restored in the country after a long period of dictatorship and the people want peace and tranquillity in every sphere and no political confrontation.

Earlier, on arrival, the prime minister was received by the Punjab governor, Retired General Tikka Khan; Punjab Chief Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif; Federal Minister for Interior Mr Aitzaz Ahsan; federal advisers; members of the provincial cabinet; mayor, Lahore Metropolitan Corporation; and high-ranking civil and military officials.

Sri Lanka

President Replies to Bandaranaike on IPKF

BK1003120689 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] President Premadasa feels the IPKF [Indian Peace-Keeping Force] withdrawal can be expedited if they rise above petty politics. In reply to a letter from the leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the president said it is his belief that we should rise above petty politics and act in the public interest in resolving issues of national security.

The president received the letter sent by Mrs Bandaranaike on the 7th of this month with a copy of a letter to the minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne. The president has instructed Mr Ranjan Wijeratne to reply to a letter from Mrs Bandaranaike on the 4th of this month on the subject of fear and insecurity faced by the Sinhala people in the North, Central, and Eastern Provinces. The president said he had been informed that her letter had motivated his minister of state for defense to reply to her in the same manner.

However, Mr Premadasa said he does not intend entering into an argument over this matter. The question of the massacre of innocent Sinhalese is a matter of great concern and critical importance to all of us. It is an issue which is condemned by all political parties which believe in the democratic process. It is human for all of us to view these gruesome acts of violence with sorrow and horror.

The president points out that these issues are challenges to all of us who are committed to nonviolence and peaceful government. The government is doing everything within its means to protect life and property irrespective of petty differences.

In his reply to the letter, Mr Premadasa notes that at his request the Government of India has begun the withdrawal of the IPKF. This process can be expedited if the demands of the Sri Lanka security forces in the rest of the country can be minimized. We shall together do everything possible to impress upon all those who are continuing to resort to violence to join the democratic process. It is only then, Mr Premadasa concludes, that we will be in a stronger position to counter attempts by both internal and external elements who are engaged in activities to weaken our motherland.

Foreign Minister Criticizes IPKF Opponents

BK1003142889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1401 GMT 10 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 10 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Foreign Affairs Ranjan Wijeratne said that those who are opposed to the presence of Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka's north and east should help to maintain peace in other areas and assist the president to send the Indian troops back to their homeland.

In a special statement broadcast today, the foreign minister pointed out that several units of Indian troops have already been withdrawn from Sri Lanka in response to a request made by President Premadasa. He added that we should now expedite the withdrawal of Indian troops. This can be done when the Sri Lankan security forces take control of the security in the north and east. Mr Wijeratne said that to achieve this objective we should maintain peace in other areas.

A large number of civilians has been killed by the terrorists by launching surprise attacks on Sinhala villages. About 50 terrorists were recently killed by the Indian troops.

According to information received by the ministry, about 1072 United National Party (UNP) supporters have been killed in various parts of the country. The foreign minister said that 78 Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) supporters and 81 from the United Socialist Alliance (USA) have been killed.

Sinhala Minister in Provincial Council Resigns

BK1203031989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the lone Sinhalese minister in the Northeastern Provincial Council government has resigned. In his letter of resignation, Mr Dayananda Jayatillake said he is quitting only to devote his full time to strengthening

the left movement following serious reverses in the recent parliamentary elections. Mr Jayatillake, who represents left-wing Sri Lanka Mahajana Party, was the planning minister in the Perumal government. Mr Jayatillake was nominated to the council by the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] for its bonus seat after he failed to win the elections.

Northeast Chief Minister Departs for India

BK1203113189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Northeast Province Chief Minister Varadaraja Perumal has left for India for talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Muttudev Karunadhi. The talks will focus on the economic development of the province, strengthening the devolution process and also review the role of the IPKF [Indian Peace-Keeping Force].

Mr Perumal, who left yesterday, will be in the Indian capital for a week. He is also scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, Defense Minister K.C. Pant, and Foreign Ministry officials.

Prior to his departure, Mr Perumal said that he will ask India for assistance to develop the Northeast Province and make the devolution process a reality. He said he will also apprise the Indian leaders, who brought them into devolution exercise, of the enthusiasm President Premadasa and his ministers are showing in making the Northeast Provincial Council to work.

Mr Perumal pointed out that the Sri Lankan Government has already agreed to release a part of the foreign assistance received and pledged for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-torn north and east and (?in that regard) they had to get Indian assistance to do the work. Assistance will be in the form of technical help and heavy machinery. India has already allocated 200 million rupees in this year's budget for the Northeast Province.

Mr Perumal will discuss with the Indian ministers the future role of the IPKF. He said his party, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], is committed to a phased withdrawal of the IPKF. They wanted the law and order machinery in the Northeast Province to be strengthened soon so that the IPKF strength can be reduced gradually. He added that he would make this position clear to the Indian leaders and policy makers.

IPKF Kills 65 LTTE 'Terrorists' in Early Mar

BK1203122189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1145 GMT 12 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Mar 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—About 65 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tail Eelam] terrorists were killed in confrontations when the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] raided three terrorist camps in the jungles close to the Nayaru lagoon in Mullaitivu, North East Sri Lanka, earlier this month, according to reports reaching LANKAPUVATH from Mullaitivu.

The Indian High Commission told LANKAPUVATH that the IPKF was continuing its oparations to disarm the LTTE. The high commission said the IPKF would disarm all those "militants" who have not accepted the India-Sri Lanka peace accord and who were not authorized to carry arms. [passage omitted]

Security Capability After IPKF Pullout Questioned

BK1103062289 Colombo SUN in English 2 Mar 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Indian Soldiers"]

[Text] The Indian government has revealed that 784 of their soldiers have been killed while on peace keeping duties in north and east Lanka and another 2,053 soldiers wounded in action. This indeed is a stupendous sacrifice the IPKF [Indian Peace-Keeping Force] has paid in keeping peace that seems hardly realised. Perhaps the Indian government never expected the peace mission to be as tardy and hazardous as it turned out to be: especially in taming a set of brutes who have been reportedly trained by clandestine bases across the Palk Straits. While the IPKF remains bogged down in the quagmire with a mission yet to accomplish, public opinion in India it appears is getting hostile over their continued deployment here. Over here in Lanka too the demand for withdrawal has never subsided. But authorities have begun to envisage a vacuum that will arise from a sudden pullout. Can the Lankan forces and the police already fighting an insurgent menace in most parts of the country be sent in to take over from the Indians? Will they not face severe terrorist onslaughts from the recalcitrant Tigers who are demanding the IPKF withdrawal with the objective of claiming Eelam? These are pertinent questions that must be considered in all their perspectives. For the time being that IPKF is left to maintain law and order in a strifetorn region. As they face the enemy at heavy costs to their lives their Lankan counterparts have been able prevent a civil war and a revolution.